

23rd April, 1983 30p

Shoot!

**SPECIAL
CUP
SEMI-FINALS
ISSUE**

**CUP DAY
MAGIC**

Graham Rix
(Arsenal)

**England
v
Greece**
IN COLOUR
ACTION



Frank
Stapleton
(Man. Utd)

Gary Shelton
(Sheffield
Wednesday)

**ALSO
FEATURED
INSIDE**

BRYAN ROBSON

GARY OWEN

SAMMY LEE

PETER SHILTON

PAUL STURROCK

ALAN BRAZIL

PHIL THOMPSON

JIMMY GREAVES

DAVID SWINDLEHURST

Jimmy Case
(Brighton)

Not again, George

MANCHESTER United's epic battle with Liverpool at Wembley should have been watched by George Best.

The same spirit of loyalty that attracted United's heroes to the 25th anniversary of the Munich air crash should have taken Best to Wembley to cheer on the men who thrill Old Trafford a decade after his departure.

Instead, on the very same day, Best, now 36, was making yet another comeback alongside players who would have been happy to lace his boots in his glory days.

As Wembley applauded Norman Whiteside's opportunism, Best was into the 12th minute of his debut for Bournemouth.

This time there were no miracles. Bournemouth were beaten by Newport and the only people at Dean Court looking remotely pleased were Bournemouth's directors, warming to a gate double its normal size.

SHOOT, view!

Ironically, George was missing for the next game, although he insists it was a one-off, not another 'walk out'.

There is no sadder sight in sport than to watch some fallen idol attempting to recapture the magic that has long since departed.

The Chester Report on football's future contains good news, and bad.

Regionalising the Third and Fourth Division makes sense. It makes sense for clubs most frequently screened on television to receive more money, and for transfer fees to be paid within three months, instead of a year.

But the main proposal, to reduce the First Division to 20 clubs and increase the Second to 24, will achieve nothing.

The truth is that if the Football League were to employ Mr Ian MacGregor, who has shaped-up the steel industry and will now tackle coal, the 92 League clubs would have been cropped to 50 at the most.

This country's support for football is not large enough to sustain such a vast playing workforce.

But the League clubs would be the last people to want to cut their own throats.

IT'S almost four years since Alan Sunderland wheeled away from the Wembley penalty area, arms high in celebration at the winning goal in a tremendous F.A. Cup Final against Manchester United.

The memory of that 3-2 victory for The Gunners — as well as an unhappy moment earlier this season against United in the League Milk Cup Semi-Final — will be with Sunderland when he walks out for the F.A. Cup Semi-Final at Villa Park this Saturday.

United's appearance in the Milk Cup Final against Liverpool and their victory in both legs of the Semi-Final makes them firm favourites to get the better of Terry Neill's side once again this Saturday.

But Alan Sunderland isn't so sure. He warns: "No one at Highbury has forgotten those two Milk Cup games — we are very anxious to show we can do a lot better than that."

"I admit that when the draw was made for this tie, everybody at Arsenal groaned. We've had enough of Manchester United this season. But when we got the chance to sit down and discuss it, we began to realise it offered us a

CUP DAY MAGIC

F.A. Cup Semi-Final
Villa Park, Saturday, 16th April
ARSENAL v MANCHESTER UNITED

tight at the back, as well as scoring goals. They haven't reached one Final and another Semi-Final by being wide open in defence nor by being afraid to attack. They've got the ideal balance."

Following their 5-0 hammering in the recent derby game at Spurs, the pressure is really on Arsenal to produce the goods in this game against United.

Sunderland forecasts "an absorbing game" at Villa Park. He adds: "Some players dread Semi-Finals but I enjoy them. The atmosphere becomes so tense, it's almost electric."

"I love that feeling of pressure and importance. There is nothing quite like it in football."

'The REAL Arsenal will gun down United'

threatens
Alan Sunderland

marvellous chance of showing our true mettle.

"United never saw the best of us in those Milk Cup ties and we hope we can give them an idea of the real Arsenal this weekend."

Sunderland has been both a Wembley winner and a Wembley loser. But he says: "Losing in a Semi-Final is far worse than being defeated at Wembley. If you lose the Final at least you've taken part in the great occasion and been part of a unique experience. Lose in the Semi and it kills you off."

"We know that if we want to win the Cup we've got to beat teams like Manchester United. Imagine how Brighton must have felt when they were drawn away to Liverpool in the Fifth Round, but look what happened there. That result is an illustration to everyone that any Cup result is possible."

'Believe'

"If we play as we did in the Quarter-Final against Aston Villa we can beat anybody; I firmly believe that."

"No one leaves themselves wide open at the back in a Semi-Final; there is too much at stake. But I'm not sure it's a good idea to sit back and do little else, either. If your opponents sneak one you're in real trouble."

"I believe it's better to go out and be positive, looking for a couple of goals to put you in charge. That's the way I like to play."

"But Manchester United have done so well this season by being



Frank Stapleton scores for United Arsenal in the Milk Cup Semi-Final Highbury.



Watch out for big Gordon McQueen at United's corners. This header against Stoke just clears the bar.

appear to be going upfield as much as he did.

O'Leary on the break, going past people, was a sight to see. He seems more cautious, probably because he feels he has to be more responsible. I'd like to see him get on the score-sheet more often.

One of our attacking strengths in the Cup-tie against Arsenal on Saturday will be the goalscoring options we create from corners.

If the fans, packed into Villa Park, watch our tactics closely they will see Frank Stapleton and Norman Whiteside run for the near post cross, while Gordon McQueen, Kevin Moran and myself (if I've won my place back) will lurk for the deeper cross.

Any club with Tony Woodcock and Alan Sunderland hunting for goals is a team to be feared. Tony has become an outstanding performer as his goals in recent weeks suggest, but I'm fairly confident Kevin Moran can handle him after shadowing Liverpool's Ian Rush so effectively.

The joke at Old Trafford is that nobody can receive treatment because all five machines are trained on Kevin's various injuries!

Kevin tackles as strongly as Tommy Smith once did for Liverpool. He commits fewer fouls than Smithy did, and one of his greatest assets is that he never loses his temper and his control. You can have a good conversation

CAUTION-THEN WEMBLEY!

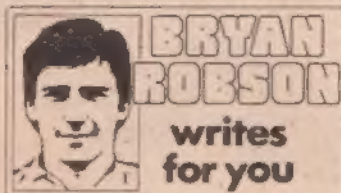
I WANT to breathe a word of caution on the eve of our F.A. Cup Semi-Final battle against Arsenal at Villa Park.

Manchester United must not be lured into a false sense of security on the strength of their obvious supremacy over the London club in the League Milk Cup-ties.

Arsenal have improved tremendously since we played them last and United have suffered the indignity of a Wembley defeat and a string of injuries.

Those changes in fortune have evened things up — but I'm still confident we can make it to Wembley for the second time in two months.

Arsenal appear to be facing the same problems we experienced last season. They are searching for the understanding and team-work



BRYAN ROBSON
writes for you

that become elusive when you bring in new players.

Vladimir Petrovic, Tony Woodcock and Stewart Robson have been introduced this season, though Robson played more than 20 games last season to earn the right to a permanent place in 1982-83.

I know the Arsenal fans ask what is wrong with a club who languish in the middle of the First Division when many people believe they have the players to press for the Championship.

My view is that Arsenal have taken a long time to recover from the loss of three key defenders, Pat



Former Liverpool hard-man Tommy Smith possessed a lot of the qualities of our own Kevin Moran.

Rice, Sammy Nelson and Willie Young. I don't wish to play down the contributions of Kenny Sansom and Robson but there is not the same blend in The Gunners defence that reigned three seasons ago.

Young, for instance, was a highly effective player, never given the credit his competitive instincts deserved. He reminds me of Gordon McQueen, awkward but a match-winner with a hatred of losing.

The changes forced upon Arsenal have blunted David O'Leary's game from what I can see. There is no denying he is one of the First Division's best centre-halves, but he doesn't

with Kevin — but you try to avoid his tackles in training!

Manchester United learned a lot from their Wembley experience last month. For a start, the lads will relax a bit more than they did against Liverpool. Some of the younger ones were quite nervous, but I love the way 17-year-old Norman Whiteside handles big games.

If a conversation I had on a train between London and Manchester is a pointer to the future — Laurie Cunningham will sign for United on a permanent basis.

I had the pleasure of accompanying my old West Brom chum on his journey to Old Trafford for the first time. He's had a terrible time at Real Madrid with injuries and his determination to get back into full-time football is obvious.

That opening goal for United's reserves against Sheffield Wednesday reserves should silence some of his enemies for a start. He wants to become a United man — and I'm confident Ron Atkinson will take him on.

Laurie's exile and sacking by England has encouraged criticism of his attitude. Can I be permitted to put the record straight on that front. Laurie, Cyrille Regis, Brendon Batson and Remi Moses, West Brom's black contingent a year or two back, were four of the most dedicated professionals I've known.

Bryan Robson

CUP PROGRESS

ARSENAL

Third Round	Bolton
Fourth Round	Leeds
Replay	Leeds
2nd replay	Leeds
Fifth Round	Middlesbrough
Replay	Middlesbrough
Quarter-Finals	Aston Villa

MANCHESTER UNITED

Third Round	West Ham
Fourth Round	Luton
Fifth Round	Derby
Quarter-Finals	Everton

(h) 2-1 (Davis, Rix)
(h) 1-1 (Sunderland)
(a) 1-1 (Rix)
(h) 2-1 (Woodcock, Rix)
(a) 1-1 (Rix)
(h) 3-2 (Woodcock, Davis, Telbot)
(h) 2-0 (Woodcock, Petrovic)

(h) 2-0 (Coppell, Stapleton)
(a) 2-0 (Moses, Moran)
(a) 1-0 (Whiteside)
(h) 1-0 (Stapleton)

BRIGHTON got the draw they wanted when they came out of the hat first for the Cup Semi-Final against a Second Division side. It was not until the night after the draw that the Sussex club

**CUP DAY
MAGIC**

F.A. Cup Semi Final
Highbury, Saturday 16 April

**BRIGHTON v.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY**

FOSTER'S FEAR

knew they would be facing Sheffield Wednesday — but that did not disguise Brighton's joy. "We are all looking forward to this tie because we believe it must offer us a great chance of getting to Wembley," says Brighton captain Steve Foster.

"No one is counting on automatic qualification for the Final because no Semi-Final is cut and dried. But we fancy our chances against Sheffield. We have the quality players to make our advantage count."

But Foster has one fear relating to the Semi-Final and a possible night of celebration at the thought of a trip to Wembley in May.

He says: "It will be terrible if we go to Wembley but with the thought in our mind that we are likely to go down to Division Two."

"I fear that more than anything because for me, it would absolutely ruin Wembley and the big day. Even now, with us just 90 minutes away from the Final, I'd swap a place at Wembley for First Division safety."

"We all want to go to Wembley because it would be the biggest day in the history of our club. But not at the expense of our First Division place. That would be too high a price to pay."

Foster believes Sheffield Wednesday will prove tough, stubborn opponents in the Semi-Final at Highbury. But he tips

Brighton's big occasion stars to tilt the balance in their favour.

"We have several players who have the ability to do something special on the day, players like Jimmy Case, who got the winner in the Fifth Round at Liverpool and then the only goal in the Quarter-Final against Norwich."

"So many successful Cup teams of the past have had that ability, even if they appear too erratic to win the League. Having the ability to rise to the occasion is a crucial factor in F.A. Cup football."

Foster and his defensive colleagues may have an equally important role to play.

Wednesday, always effective on the break, may be dangerous when Brighton are least anticipating trouble.

Steve Foster will need to be at his sharpest throughout the game, just as much as potential scorers like Case and Robinson, to help Brighton into a fairytale Final.



Steve Foster fears relegation could ruin a possible Wembley appearance for Brighton.



Tears of defeat

GRAHAM Moseley's career has turned full circle from the events of a couple of years ago.

Under a deluge of criticism from former Brighton manager Alan Mullery, he was on the verge of quitting the game altogether.

"My confidence was completely shattered, and I was probably as

close to packing it all in as I now am to playing at Wembley," he says. "But I stuck with it, and this is my reward."

Graham has sampled the unique atmosphere of an F.A. Cup Semi-Final before, just as team-mates Tony Grealish and Jimmy Case have. And it's an experience still vivid in his memory.

"It was in 1976, when I was with Derby County," recalls Moseley. "I only had a handful of senior games under my belt when I suddenly found myself facing Manchester United at Hillsborough."

"County were Cup favourites, but on the day it was Gordon Hill

who stole the show for United, scoring both goals in their 2-0 victory. Afterwards we all just sat in the dressing room, too stunned to talk."

"Then I walked Dave Mackay, our manager at the time, and the toughest man I've ever met in football. He just stood there, in front of us all, and cried unashamedly."

"That just shows you what losing an F.A. Cup Semi-Final means in football. But at 4.45 on Saturday it'll be tears of delight, not despair that'll be running down Jimmy Mella's cheeks, I'm sure of that."

HIT-AND-RUN OWLS

STOP Brighton striker Michael Robinson and a place in the Wembley F.A. Cup Final could be secured.

That's Sheffield Wednesday's plan as the two outsiders battle for the glory of a part of Wembley history in Saturday's Semi-Final.

Wednesday go to Highbury glad that they are playing Brighton and not the owners of the Stadium, Arsenal. And they will go out intending to follow Semi-Final tradition by keeping the tie as tight as possible.

Central defender Mark Smith says: "No one is going to throw caution to the wind in a Semi-Final, whoever they are. The prize is too great so it's bound to

be a close match.

"We are glad we're playing Brighton for a simple reason — we all think we can beat them. We don't believe there is a big gap between the First Division's bottom place and our position in the top ten of the Second Division. We ought to be able to bridge that gap on Semi-Final day.

"Everyone is tipping Brighton to win and assuming they will do it. That suits us fine because we like being underdogs and unknowns.

"Our list of opponents so far has meant that we've slipped into the Semi-Final virtually unseen. That's ideal for us because there has been no pressure at all."

Although he has the experience of former Everton star Mike Lyons alongside him, Smith admits he suffers from nerves. He says: "I suppose they will be worse than ever in the dressing room at Highbury.

"But once I get out there, it will be all right. And the job of all the defensive lads in our team will be to keep out Brighton, and especially Mike Robinson.

"He has always impressed me when I've seen him play. He doesn't just work and do the business in penalty-areas; he chases defenders when they have the ball, works for possession and

Defender Mark Smith is confident Wednesday can beat their First Division opponents.

Mills' Wembley goal

SHEFFIELD Wednesday midfielder star David Mills will break a personal barrier when he steps out for The Owls in Saturday's F.A.

Cup Semi-Final against Brighton.

For Mills had twice suffered the heartache of defeat in the Quarter-Finals while at Middlesbrough. Now he's in the last four for the first time following: "Four wasted years at WBA."

Life turned sour for Mills after a £516,000 move to the Midlands. From being England's most expensive footballer he slipped into obscurity.

Sheffield Wednesday rescued Mills in January and now he's determined to make up for lost time.

"I've missed out on what should have been my peak years," he says. "Yet I still have at least three or four years in the game.

"When I was at Boro we went out in the Quarter-Finals to Birmingham and Orient, but in only my third Cup-tie with Wednesday we beat Burnley 5-0."

Mills says Brighton will hold no fears for Wednesday at neutral Highbury and claims: "I see no reason why a Second Division side can't win the F.A. Cup. Quite a few teams have managed it in recent years."



CUP PROGRESS

BRIGHTON

Third Round	Newcastle	(h) 1-1 (Ritchie)
Replay	Newcastle	(a) 1-0 (Ward)
Fourth Round	Manchester City	(h) 4-0 (Case, Smillie, Robinson 2)
Fifth Round	Liverpool	(a) 2-1 (Ryan, Case)
Quarter-Finals	Norwich	(h) 1-0 (Case)

SHEFF WED

Third Round	Southend	(a) 0-0
Replay	Southend	(h) 2-2 (Smith, Megson)
2nd replay	Southend	(h) 2-1 (Kaeley og, Taylor pen)
Fourth Round	Torquay	(a) 3-2 (Lyons, Sterland, Megson)
Fifth Round	Cambridge	(a) 2-1 (Megson 2)
Quarter-Finals	Burnley	(a) 1-1 (Bannister)
Replay	Burnley	(h) 5-0 (Shelton 2, Megson pen, McCulloch 2)



cuts down opponents' angles on clearances.

"We rate him as probably the biggest danger to us so he will be watched closely. He is a bustling player who puts himself about. And on Cup Semi-Final day he will be sure to have even more aggression and energy than usual."

Wednesday aim to contain Brighton and then hit them on the break. "I don't think it's any secret that that's our game, and we are pretty good at it," says Smith.

"We have fast strikers in players like Gary Bannister and David Mills, who can raid quickly on the break.

"Brighton might think they're a big occasion side, but we are a bit that way, too. No one knows what will happen on the day between these sides or any other in an F.A. Cup Semi-Final.

"So many First Division teams have fallen to Second Division sides in recent years that Brighton are by no means guaranteed a place at Wembley. They're welcome to think that way if they wish but they'll be unwise to do so."

Four losing F.A. Cup Quarter-Finalists reflect on their... SHATTERED DREAMS

'We deserved another chance'

KEVIN RATCLIFFE (Everton)

OURS must have been the cruellest Quarter-Final defeat of the four. We felt we had done enough for at least a draw at Old Trafford and if we had taken our chances we might have won it first time.

When you go away for a tough Cup match at the Quarter-Final stage and reach injury time level, you are entitled to think you will earn a replay. To lose that late was the worst thing which could have happened.

I suppose everyone felt we deserved another chance. And after beating Tottenham, the holders, you always feel you can go all the way to Wembley.

But, of course, the Cup is so full of upsets that nothing should be a surprise.

We had to get over it pretty quickly because we played South-

ampton at home in a League match on the next Tuesday night. And on the following Saturday we had Liverpool to face in the Merseyside derby.

We gave a thoroughly professional display against Southampton to win 2-0. And we then held Liverpool in the derby so maybe that was ideal. We didn't have long to sit down and think about our bad luck.

You can always look back and wonder what might have been. But I suppose if a couple of those early chances had gone in we would have won outright or at least taken United back to Goodison for a replay. But that's all history now.

Everton's defence watch Frank Stapleton's late Cup winner.



'Well beaten'

MARTIN DOBSON (Burnley)

I THINK we did well enough to be satisfied with our run in the Cup. Losing at any stage is a disappointment and when you reach the last eight I suppose that disappointment is heightened.

But in all fairness, we had a fair amount of luck. We should have been slaughtered in the first-half at Crystal Palace but went in at 0-0 because they missed a stack of chances. And we were lucky to get past them in the replay because of a fortunate penalty decision.

The League has always been the most important thing for us, so there wasn't any major problem of picking ourselves up afterwards.

After all, there was sufficient incentive — to avoid dropping into the Third Division. I think all the players knew that wasn't what they wanted so we got down to the next job and agreed to forget the Cup exit very quickly.

We were soundly beaten in that replay at Sheffield Wednesday but we might have beaten them at our place if things had gone right. But the penalty we missed proved costly and that was enough to swing it against us.

To me, the League is always the criteria. Brighton could win the F.A. Cup and yet be relegated and to my mind that would mean they'd had a terrible season.

I don't care what anyone says — the League is always the event. It has to be in every way. The Cup is all about luck at the right time. But it should never be regarded as the top trophy by the players.



'Justice for Case'

JOHN DEEHAN (Norwich)

I suppose some people might call it unprofessional, but it was really just human nature. The Cup offers so much excitement, a chance to lift you from the ordinary bread and butter stuff of the League.

We beat Swansea, Coventry and Ipswich to get that far and the bandwagon seemed to be rolling right towards Wembley. Jimmy Case shattered that dream but I wouldn't argue with the goal he scored.

It was said at the time everyone at Norwich felt it should not have been allowed. But when I sat down later and watched it on TV, I felt it was a good goal. I'd have been shattered if I'd scored and it had been ruled out.

Perhaps the toughest part for us was when we heard Brighton, the side which beat us, had drawn Sheffield Wednesday in the Semi-Final.

We were gutted by that because we all fancied our chances of beating them with a place at Wembley at stake. But knowing our luck we would have been paired with Manchester United — the draw would probably have fallen in a different way if we'd been involved!



AFTER beating three First Division sides en route to the Quarter-Finals, I don't mind admitting everyone at Carrow Road had a sneaking feeling that our name was written on the Cup this year.

It's hard to describe the misery, the total dejection when you sit down and realise you are out. Even late the next week all the heads were still down and the manager had to work very hard to lift us for the League match which followed.



Vladimir Petrovic cracks Arsenal's second goal against Villa.

Perhaps we should give credit to The Gunners, because they seem to know how to play us. Whatever it was, we lost, after feeling that we would go to Wembley this year.

The F.A. Cup was the big one for us this season. Losing so late in the competition makes you feel bitterly disappointed and dejected. It might be better to go out early because at least then you haven't had time to harbour thoughts of the Final.

By the Quarter-Final stage, you inevitably think a little of Wembley because you are only 180 minutes away from it.

The F.A. Cup has such a folklore, such an appeal everywhere that defeat so close to the climax at Wembley is one of the greatest disappointments you can experience in the game.

But that is the way football is; it's full of ups and downs. In some ways, it's good that you have so many games to play in the English game because it means you can start to get over the disappointment quicker than might normally be the case.

But after our F.A. Cup exit this season many of the Villa lads were still feeling it a good while after. The Cup is like that; it's marvellous if you do well, but cruel when you lose.

'Highbury bogey'

ALLAN EVANS (Aston Villa)

WE went out of the F.A. Cup Quarter-Final at Arsenal and then lost our European Cup at Juventus the following Wednesday — it was a hell of a week for us.

But to be perfectly honest, no one at Villa Park could feel aggrieved at losing at Highbury because we simply never played on the day.

Maybe that was the most disappointing part of it all — we didn't seem to be hungry to win... the appetite wasn't there.

It was our old Highbury bogey, because we have never played well or been successful at Arsenal.

WHEN Malcolm Allison sold Gary Owen to West Bromwich Albion in May, 1979, he broke the player's heart.

Owen had just completed the first year of a six-year contract that would have undoubtedly led to him ending his playing career with Manchester City.

Yet three weeks ago Owen had the opportunity of rejoining City — as well as signing for Stoke, Coventry or Wolves — but decided to re-sign for West Bromwich Albion.

This decision sums up the maturity and long-term ambition

of a talented midfielder player yet to break beyond the bounds of the England Under-21 side, for whom his 20th appearance, against Hungary, was a milestone.

Owen admits to still feeling a tremendous affection for City, but their current financial situation, coupled with his admiration for Albion's new manager, Ron Wylie, combined to ensure that he begins next season with West Bromwich.

"A lot has happened since Malcolm Allison sold me," says Owen. "I was married last June and my wife, Linsey, is expecting our first baby any time now. I am

more secure, more settled and more seasoned in the world of the pro game. I know what is best for my future and I chose Albion.

"I admit that when I left Maine Road, Malcolm was not one of my favourite people. I could see him breaking up a very good team and I did not want to leave. When I did join Albion I took my time settling in and used to drive home to Manchester to see friends and family.

"But now I am a settled man. I believe the Albion squad is strong, experienced and very close to becoming one of the best in the League. I have my ambitions in the international direction and am convinced that Ron Wylie is

"I found City to be a warm and friendly club, one where a lad was made to feel at home. Yet as a schoolboy I used to alternate between United and City as a fan. I could have ended up at Old Trafford!

"But when I left Maine Road, I made sure I was not quoted as saying anything critical about the club.

"I has happy there, City did well by me and I always want to be able to go back there through the front door."

City's loss was Albion's gain when Ron Atkinson paid out £450,000 for Owen in that May.

"People have given Ron a lot of stick at Manchester United

'Albion have won me over' SAYS GARY OWEN

already proving that he can keep Albion going forward."

What really settled Owen's mind was Allison's admission that he made a blunder.

"Malcolm admitted that he regretted selling me and that made me feel a lot better. I admire the man for having the character to stand up and say that he believes he made a mistake. I never wanted to leave, but having said that, it's history now."

How different that history could have been if Allison had not

because of the amount of money he has spent — but I remember when he spent heavily at Albion, took the same type of criticism, and put the club on the map again.

"Under Atkinson Albion played in Europe and were unlucky not to beat Ipswich in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final of 1978. We had a good side and played attacking, attractive football. The man is good for the game.

"Make no mistake, it was a blow when he left The Hawthorns. The lads all respected him and admired his ability to come across well with the media and also get down to the basics when he was alone with the players.

"I predict that United will really take off once his plans and signings knit into the pattern of play he demands."

Owen is one of England's respected footballers. He refuses to enter the arena of complaining and knocking, preferring always to look on the positive side of his profession.

Critically

There is no opponent of whom he speaks critically, nor does he believe in entering the "listen to me, folks, I can save the game with my revolutionary views" arena.

He recognises his League debut, playing in the same space as the great City players and representing his country as his career highspots to date. But something else overshadows everything...

"Marrying Linsey! That was a lifetime highlight. And with our first baby on the way I am genuinely excited.

"I'm not one of those players who wants to unwind or relax. I am not capable of it.

"I need to play cricket, golf, tennis, snooker — you name it, I'll play it. There's more than enough time for my slippers and the fireside when I'm too old to move a sporting muscle.

"But looking after a baby, that's something new and thrilling. I will happily give up a lot of the sports to be involved in my child's development."

For a man whose ambitions, dreams, not to mention devotion to one club, were shattered by an unwanted transfer, Gary Owen's attitude is an example to all players, present and future.



STAR SPOT

Peter Barnes accompanied Owen on the trip from Manchester City to WBA.



Born St. Helens on July 7, 1958, Gary Owen joined Manchester City aged 14 and played an important part in their history until sold, against his will, to West Bromwich Albion, in May, 1979, for £450,000. At Maine Road he played in 103 League games, scoring 19 goals and made his England Under-21 debut against Scotland in 1977. Recently signed a new contract with Albion, despite being chased by Wolves, Stoke, Coventry and... Manchester City.

decided to break up a City side on the verge of great things — men such as Asa Hartford, Dave Watson, Peter Barnes, Brian Kidd and Owen.

"When I was a youngster, full of ambition and awe, I had the exciting opportunity of training and working with the likes of Mike Summerbee, Colin Bell, Francis Lee and Alan Oakes. Great footballers and men who taught me a lot.

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GENERAL LEE

**aims to win
England
midfield
battle**



SAMMY Lee is one half of the working men's club association currently launching a takeover bid for the England team's midfield.

Battling Lee, the little-publicised Liverpool midfield general, is a real player's player; a worker in every sense of the word.

Lee, like Tottenham's hard working Gary Mabbutt, has caught Bobby Robson's eye and won his admiration.

While ball players such as Glenn Hoddle, Ray Wilkins, Trevor Brooking and Alan Devonshire have been out of contention for a variety of reasons, Lee and Mabbutt have seized their chances magnificently.

Now, Robson may be reluctant to dislodge players who might appear unfashionable in some respects but who are every manager's ideal footballers; dedicated, resilient and very determined.

Lee and Mabbutt are ball winners and workers. And England's midfield has not had players like them since Bryan Robson first emerged on the scene or, going further back, since Nobby Stiles provided such useful service to England's 1966 World Cup team.

Exactly what sort of balance the side requires in midfield is always one of the national manager's toughest decisions.

Lee himself admits: "I think finding the balance in midfield is the most important part of the side."

"On the day you must get it right. You must have a combination of all three midfield skills; tackling, support and distribution."

"Against Greece in the European

Championship qualifier in Salonika, things seemed to work very well. It felt as though we had been playing together for some years because we knitted together perfectly."

"But whether you can pick the same midfield lads for every game just because it went well in one match is open to doubt."

"I think those days have gone, because you must pick sides to win individual matches. One combination against one side won't necessarily be the right one against another."

"That is an indication of how football has changed over the years."

Understanding is essential in midfield. Lee is well aware of that fact from his Liverpool experiences. "If one player goes forward for Liverpool, another drops back to cover him. It's automatic now because we work for each other."

'Advantage'

"If England could reach that situation I'm sure it would be a terrific advantage."

"I was very nervous on my international debut but all the players helped me settle down very quickly. I'm sure that was one reason why I did well. Gary Mabbutt surprised me that day in Greece — he was another reason England won."

"He never stopped running and working — his energy seemed limitless. We reckoned he must drink gallons of Lucozade each night to get such reserves of strength!"

As England continue their march to France for the European Championship Finals, the likes of Lee and Mabbutt are already stamping their influence and authority on the squad.



Lee watches as Gary Mabbutt beats the Greeks in Salonika.

IT was a night of frustration and misery for England as they were held to a goalless draw by lowly Greece at Wembley in the recent European Championship qualifying game.

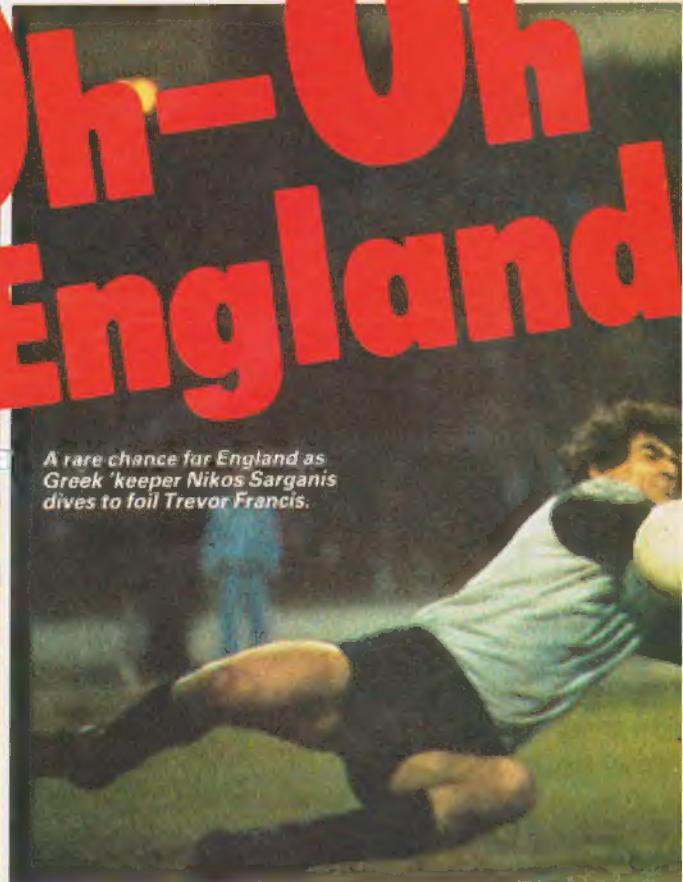


Tony Woodcock is tackled from behind by Greek defender Nikos Karoulias.

Oh-Oh England



Frustration again as Steve Coppel is halted by the outstretched Charalambos Xanthopoulos.



A rare chance for England as Greek 'keeper Nikos Sarganis dives to foil Trevor Francis.

Serganis again, once more plunging at the feet of Francis as Gary Mabbutt closes in.

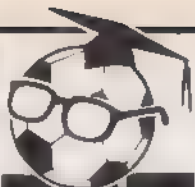


Terry Butcher's header at goal narrowly misses the target.

SHOOT!

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ASK THE EXPERT



SHORT PASSES

● Mick Jones (above) played 149 League games (63 goals) for Sheffield United before being transferred to Leeds (219 League games, 76 goals).

(ROBERT SHAULIN, Hounslow)

● Brian Clough scored 197 goals in 213 League games for Middlesbrough, and 54 goals in 61 for Sunderland.

(KIM SAXON, Australia)

Jim McDonagh scored against Burnley in a Second Division game on 15th January.

There was also one last season when Brian Lloyd scored for Stockport against Bradford City.

But the most famous 'keepers to score direct from hefty clearances, with a few weeks of each other in 1967, were Pat Jennings (for Spurs v Manchester United in the FA Charity Shield game on 12th August), and Peter Shilton (Leicester v Southampton in a First Division game on 14th October).

NOW — TRY TO BEAT THE EXPERT

It's a bit of a "catch" question which GEORGE MASON, of Bedworth in Warwickshire, poses this week.

"In which post War F.A. Cup Final," he asks, "did an international defender wear a cap during the game?"

Not a pretty sight, you may say — and not an easy one to answer, either!

George, though, points to the 1957 Final, when Manchester United 'keeper Ray Wood was stretched off the field only eight minutes into the game with Aston Villa.

Although Wood pluckily later came back to hobble on the

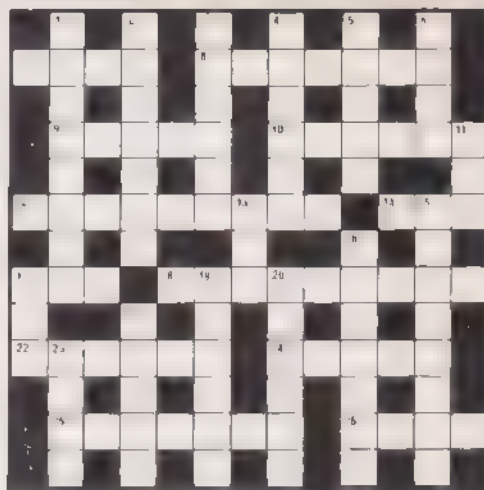
wing — no subs in those days — it was Jackie Blanchflower, younger brother of Danny, who spent the rest of the game in goal... performing heroically in United's narrow 2-1 defeat.

And, with the strong sun in his eyes, Jackie DID have to wear a cap!

Naughty, George, but you do serve a fiver all the same.

● Every week we give you the opportunity to put the Expert on the spot by firing at him a question you believe he can't answer. Enclose a separate envelope with the answer. If he has to open it, you win £5!

SHOOT! CROSSWORD



ACROSS —

- (7) — Sexton, Coventry City manager (4)
- (8) GRAINED An anagram for an English Third Division club (3)
- (9) The World Cup competition is held every four — (5)
- (10) Kevin — Everton mid-field player (8)
- (12) Norman —, Manchester United striker (9)
- (14) Kenny J...ke-t, Watford mid-field player (3)
- (17) Number of clubs currently in the English Second Division whose names begin with the letter "L" (3)
- (18) Wases and Chelsea defender (4&5)
- (22) — Berry Stoke City defender (8)
- (24) The 5th, 10th, 3rd, 12th and 8th letters of Middlesbrough (5)
- (25) — Villa, Spurs' Argentine mid-fielder (7)
- (26) Pat —, Watford defender (4)

DOWN —

- (1) Aston Villa striker (4&4)

(2) The probable result of a

- foul in the — area! (7)
- (3) The 4th, 5th, 10th, 1st, 7th and 8th letters of Somerset Park (Apr) (6)
- (4) Played the ball to another member of the team (8)
- (5) — Callaghan, Watford winger (5)
- (6) Vicar —, Roar Stadium, Watford (4)
- (11) If Ipswich Chelsea and Newport give HAT what will Bury, Rochdale and Orient give? (3)
- (13) Le...ster City, are nicknamed The Fiberts (3)
- (15) Ray —, Spurs' keeper (8)
- (16) Paul —, West Ham striker (7)
- (17) Pe...erbor...h United, The Posh (3)
- (19) David Arsenal defender (8)
- (20) One of Norwich City's colours (8)
- (21) Paul —, Spurs defender (5)
- (23) Cr...we...lexand...a play at Gre...ty Road (4)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 32

TOP scorer Kerry Dixon wants to leave Reading at the end of the season and has set his sights on the First Division.

Dixon's target: the First Division

The Third Division's leading scorer has constantly been attracting scouts from a host of top clubs, and if it wasn't for the pelvic strain that laid him off for two months he could already be playing elsewhere.

"At the moment I just want to get properly match fit so I can prove myself again," he says. "I'm not really bothered about which club I play for, although obviously I

want them to be in the First Division."

He has netted almost half of the Elm Park side's goals this season, despite missing 11 League games when he was injured. Although Dixon is now back in the side, he

feels he is not yet back to full fitness.

"I'm still feeling a certain amount of pain, even though the actual injury has gone. I'm nowhere near the level of fitness I was at the start of the season."

But despite Dixon's achievements this season, Reading are languishing in the relegation area with difficult fixtures to come.

"I've been disappointed with the

way we have played this season," says Dixon. "We have been very inconsistent, especially at the start of the season. It was ironic that I came back into the side just as they were finishing their best run!"

Dixon was directly involved in one of the most bizarre results of the season. He scored four goals in a League game at Doncaster back in September, but still ended up on the losing side! Doncaster Rovers won the game 7-5.

"It was my first League hat-trick, so I was very pleased with that. But it really was a remarkable game."

Dixon has a distinct goalscoring aim this season.

"I am aiming for 30 goals, because a local construction firm has offered me £1,000. That would help pay for a trip to Spain for the team."



WHISTLE STOP

KEITH HACKETT

1

Because the penalty spot is waterlogged should you allow a penalty to be taken from a different position?



2

To inform the players that you have awarded an indirect free-kick do you (a) hold one arm in the air, or (b) tell the players?



3

A linesman has informed you that a player has left the field without your permission. Should you (a) refuse to allow the player back on the field or (b) caution him?



ANSWERS

(a) Caution him (b)

exact position 12 yards from goal

This week Keith Hackett, who takes charge of Saturday's F.A. Cup Semi-Final tie between Arsenal and Manchester United, devotes his "Match Point" to the big game.



Keith Hackett watches as Liverpool striker David Johnson is treated during the 1980 F.A. Cup semi-final at Arsenal.

I MUST BE THE BOSS

To referee such an important game as an F.A. Cup Semi-Final means I must draw on all my experience and be as relaxed as possible.

Saturday's clash at Villa Park between Arsenal and Manchester United promises to be a tremendous match. I am really looking forward to it.

This will, in effect, be my third F.A. Cup Semi-Final because I was in charge of the first two games of the 1980 competition between Arsenal and Liverpool which took four matches before The Gunners met West Ham at Wembley.

I learnt from those games that you must be as relaxed as possible, and that applies to your linesmen. The tension can be unbelievable.

I have no contact with the players until kick-off time. When the two captains come to the middle I just make small talk with them, wish them luck and hope it is a good game.

They generally start at 100 mph for the first 20 minutes or so and that is where I must stamp my authority on the match, make the players realise I'm the boss.

I appreciate the players are involved and there is a lot at stake but I must also ensure that at the end of the day the fans talk about the game and not about me.

My performance must be consistent throughout the 90 minutes and I must keep alert physically and mentally.

I have a lot of respect for the two clubs and would imagine this one to be a tight affair.

I've refereed both sides this season and know they love the big atmosphere. A lot of the onus will be put on the two goalkeepers.

Prospect

You only have to look through the two sides to realise what a prospect we have of a cracking game.

I must work hard to gain the respect of the players early on which should allow me to fade into the background.

Saturday's game is the next best thing to the Final, which I have had the honour of refereeing.

That was the 1981 F.A. Cup Final between Tottenham and Manchester City, which Spurs won 3-2 after extra-time in an exciting replay.

If Arsenal and Manchester United can produce that sort of display then football in general will be a winner.

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Swich (right) and Liverpool would be able to cope with a Super League

My cure for soccer's crisis

YOU'D have to be a footballing ostrich with your head in the sand not to realise that football is at a crossroads.

No one can sit back in the belief that football can remain in its present form and survive.

At Liverpool gates have been slipping and, to give credit to the chairman John Smith and our secretary Peter Robinson, they've introduced cost-cutting moves and worked out ways of pulling in the punters.

I've got my own ideas on how to cure football's problems

Some of them are identical to the recommendations of the Chester Report, some are variations, and some are not even covered by it.

Probably the most controversial point in the report is the reduction of the First Division to 20 clubs. I don't think they've gone far enough. My slimline tonic would be to come down to 18 clubs.

Emphasis

That way many meaningless League fixtures would be cut out and more emphasis put on domestic and European Cup competitions.

I realise I talk from a privileged position. There's no danger of the axe falling on Liverpool. Life would be harder for players with the four clubs who found themselves dumped into a proposed enlarged Second Division

But I'm convinced it's a piece of surgery that soccer needs to survive. People are much more demanding these days. And to get them to go to the expense and effort to come to a game, it has to be extra special.

Television companies select games on the basis of pulling power, and this definitely has an effect on gates at top games.

I'd restrict TV coverage to



My soccer world
PHIL THOMPSON



one game on Saturday evening, one on Sunday and a complete shut-out in mid-week.

Probably my biggest criticism of TV is its ban on shirt advertising. Sponsorship is one of the greatest lifelines thrown to the game and we should be allowed to grasp it with both hands

Life is even tougher for clubs in the lower Divisions. I think it makes sense for Third and Fourth to be combined and split up into regions.

Unfortunately, which ever system is preferred, players will eventually have to become part-time as clubs would find it impossible to keep them on full-time. But no way must these clubs be allowed to die.

Bottom

Many of the high fliers of today started at the bottom end of the League.

Such as Kevin Keegan and Ray Clemence with Scunthorpe United, and present Liverpool stars Ian Rush came from Chester and Phil Neal from Northampton.

Sky-high transfer fees must become a thing of the past. I can see a time in the near future when £250,000 — chickenfeed compared with recent seven-figure fees — will be regarded as big money.

It's a good idea for home clubs to keep receipts, as this will stimulate them to do their utmost to create the maximum amount of local interest

There's no arguing that hooligans have driven fans away. My solution? The courts should stop handing out fines — somehow or other the villains find ways to pay — but impose really harsh punishments.

Space is now running out on me, but I think I've covered most of the main talking points about how to keep football where it belongs — as Britain's number one sport!

Phil Thompson

NEWCASTLE United's Imre Varadi has plenty of incentive to put on his shooting boots.

He says: "There is still time to equal last season's total of 20 goals, and in doing so help to take Newcastle into a leading League spot."

If Varadi can achieve his target, it will help to secure his future at St James' Park and ease the frustration United's £100,000 striker has felt during recent months.

"I haven't been happy with my game for much of the season. I've got to slow down in front of goal and stick the ball away more often. When I've had chances to score I've been too impetuous, and missed a lot of opportunities."

Bid

Early in March the former Everton striker, who has averaged nearly a goal in every other game for United, found himself the middle man in Newcastle's bid to bring Brighton's Mike Robinson to St James' Park.

But Varadi is determined to stay any talk of a transfer out of his mind. He says: "I've heard nothing officially about the Brighton business, only what I read in the newspapers."

"As far as I'm concerned, I want to stay at Newcastle. I love the club and the area. I couldn't wish for a better place to be in football. When I left Everton, I had the

chance to move to a few other clubs. I chose Newcastle because they are still considered a big club and I was impressed with the plans of manager Arthur Cox.

"I didn't come to Tyneside to be a failure. I want to enjoy success in football, and I've been made aware of what wearing the number nine

Sheffield United, spotted him Haslam took Varadi to Bramall Lane, where he scored three in his first outing for United's Central League outfit — and was immediately handed a contract.

Within a year he was transferred to Everton for £80,000, where he faced competition for a First

Division place against men of the calibre of Brian Kidd, Bob Latchford and Peter Eastoe.

Now, Imre faces the challenge of meeting his own high standards, and he says: "It would be easy to get myself off the hook by arguing that I've improved enough to get myself into positions where chances are available."

"But that doesn't cut any ice with me. To be an expert finisher I must be more composed in scoring situations."

Varadi's vow MORE GOALS!

shirt can mean here — Newcastle are famous for great centre-forwards. But that fact doesn't bother me. It spurs me on."

Late in February, manager Cox gave an additional spur to his centre-forward when he said: "He will have to improve his technique or pay the penalty."

Following that pronouncement, Varadi scored against Fulham and Crystal Palace in successive matches and said: "That sort of thing does gee you up, and if it makes me score goals more regularly then all well and good."

Varadi, United's leading scorer last season, is currently trying to overtake Kevin Keegan in the club's scoring charts.

Brought up in Luton, Varadi was playing Sunday football when Harry Haslam, then the manager of

Varadi tangles with QPR defender Terry Fenwick



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ENGLAND goalkeeper **PETER SHILTON** comes under the SHOOT microscope in our fascinating series that gives you a new insight into the lives and careers of the top players. Here are 20 startling facts about one of the greatest goalkeepers of all time...

1 He made his League debut for Leicester City against Everton on May 4, 1966. Within a year he had replaced England's World Cup hero Gordon Banks as Leicester's regular last line of defence.

2 Primary Schools XI — as captain, and right-haw. But his favourite position even then was goalkeeper and he went on to win four England schoolboy caps.

3 His major worry as a schoolboy was that he would not be tall enough to make it as a professional. He used to do daily

5 were both keen to sign Shilton after his debut for the England schools team. But he had been training with Leicester City since he was 11 and decided he owed them loyalty.

6 Leicester, Peter was determined to get everything right and he made a close study of the techniques of three outstanding goalkeepers — Peter Bonetti, the great Russian Lev Yashin and, of course, Gordon Banks.

7 He did not want to spend years as an understudy to Banks, then England's regular goalkeeper. He told



The great Lev Yashin was one of Peter's boyhood idols

12 During his indifferent spell as England's first-choice goalkeeper, he placed to Ray Clemence. He told the then England manager Don Revie that he did not wish to be considered for further international squads.

13 Brian Clough tried to buy Shilton from Leicester for £175,000 when he was manager at Derby. Then he attempted to set up a deal for him during his brief stay as Leeds manager. Clough finally got his man for Nottingham Forest at a cost of £300,000.

14 Shilton has had regular bodywork from sports therapist Happpel, Bryan 'Pop' Rosen's father-in-law. Happpel, a former champion ballroom dancer, taught Shilton to improve his rhythm and balance and helped him get the stiffness out of his goal-line stance.

15 Shilton admits that he gives as good as he gets and is mentally shattered after every game.

Secrets of the Stars No.2 **PETER SHILTON**

stretching exercises at home that included swinging monkey-like from the banisters and fixing weights to his feet. The result is he is now two inches taller in the arms than is normal for a man of his height.

4 family. His father, Les, was a good-class amateur and his Uncle Fred — his father's brother — played in Leicester City's reserves in the 1930's.

Leicester he wanted to try to establish himself with another club and they made the sensational decision to sell Banks rather than Shilton.

8 Shilton collected an F.A. Cup runner-up medal with Stoke in 1963 but they were never able to meet his ambitions. He got his wish for a move after three requests.

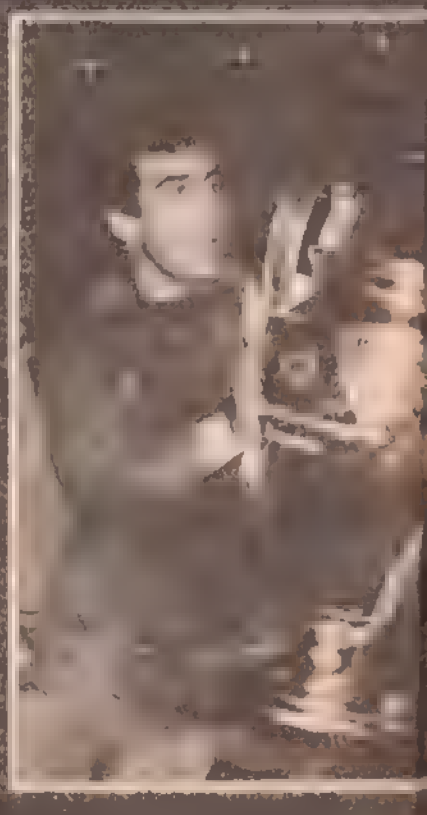
9 directors when, during a radio broadcast, he was asked to select a record. He requested 'You've Got Me Dangling On A String' by his group, Chairman of the Board. His sense of humour was not appreciated and he was soon on the move to Stoke City.

10 Stoke paid £340,000 for Shilton, a record for a goalkeeper but it was a move that he was to bitterly regret.

11 Shilton, a perfectionist and a stickler for his attitude and approach to football, once publicly accused some of his Stoke team-mates of being "too relaxed and unprofessional". He described his stay at Stoke as "my three lost years".



The Young Peter Shilton with Gordon Banks, his predecessor at both Leicester and Stoke





Brian Clough, the man who finally signed Shilton after years of trying

16 Shilton always follows the second place, sprints towards the penalty area and then shoots the ball into the back of the net. On the morning he must intensely hit

19 Shilton is very image-conscious in a crowd. That is why he became the first Football League and he bought a powerful Oakley V12 — because no other footballer had one

17 In his first season with Forest they won the League Championship and he conceded only 18 League goals all season. Asked if he thought Shilton was now the best goalkeeper in England, Brian Clough replied: "He isn't quite simply the best goalkeeper in the world"

20 When he was at his peak with Forest he was earning in excess of £30,000 a year. Westington Diplomats wanted to buy him for £500,000 and pay him £200,000 a year. He remains one of the highest-paid players in the League now that he's at Southampton

18 It was Shilton's goalkeeping at Forest into the European Cup in 1979 and again in 1980. But he was keen for a fresh challenge and the football world was astonished at his request for a transfer in April, 1981

NEXT WEEK

SECRETS ABOUT ALAN BALL



LEFT: Peter's goalkeeping for Forest won the 1980 European Cup. ABOVE: He didn't stop the goal when he stood up in goal



'Burley-Britain's best right-back'

says **BOBBY ROBSON**

ENGLAND manager Bobby Robson, looking back at his 11 years in charge at Ipswich, says: "I cannot remember any opposing player coming out on top against George Burley. We missed him badly whenever he was out through injury."

Robson confesses to admiring the class and skill of the Scottish international and adds: "His talent at right-back — and he's the best player in Britain in that position — went a long way to making the club successful during my years at Portman Road."

So could the long absence of Burley from the Ipswich side this season be one major reason why they have faltered? And could his return for the final weeks of the campaign help Ipswich to a top six spot to reclaim a place in Europe next season?

"I know that Ipswich will come good again. We've got the players, the talent and the blend," states Burley. "What I'm not going to comment on is Bobby Robson's comments about me!"

"Obviously I'm extremely flattered, but he signed me, gave me my debut at 17 and saw me almost every day for 11 years. No manager knows a player's game as closely as Bobby Robson knows mine."

"The change in management has nothing to do with our own ups and downs this season. Bobby Ferguson has been here a long time and applies just the same standards as I grew up with."

"Consistency is at the root of everything in football. This season, for reasons almost impossible to pinpoint, we have lacked this vital quality. But we'll be back with the best!"

Despite Burley's



modesty, however, there is little doubt that the influence of the defender who is now Ipswich's most experienced player has been badly missed. His direction and authority is a key factor.

Two years ago, when he looked to be established in Scotland's team,

Burley missed seven months through injury. He fought back last season and won Jock Stein's vote for the squad to travel to Spain for the World Cup Finals.

"I had a chance of playing against Brazil. Then I jarred my heel in training and they discovered a cracked bone. That was a terrible disappointment," he recalls.

"This season, I thought that everything was fine and I was again on the verge of selection when I was hurt again. A week before the European Championship qualifying game against Belgium, I felt a sharp pain in my shin."

That set the doctors a problem — because nothing was found to be wrong. "After exhaustive examinations, it was discovered that the pain stemmed from a rough patch behind my knee. Now that has been drilled out in an opera-

tion and I'm starting my season all over again," he says.

So the man who would walk into Bobby Robson's England squad still has just 11 caps for Scotland — and a fight on his hands to convince Jock Stein that he is again worth a recall.

"Unlucky? Sometimes I think so, but then I think about all the players who have been far unluckier than me. Many of them are now out of the game, but I can still fight my way back."

Nevertheless, the statistics tell their own story. Last season, after missing the first two months of the season, Burley played the final 29 Ipswich matches and the side finished powerfully to take second place behind Liverpool.

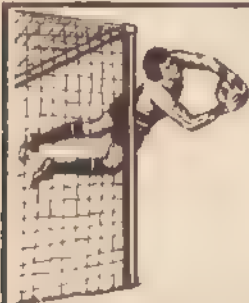
Leaders

It is no mere coincidence that Burley's return to the side has again come at the same time as Ipswich's re-appearance among the First Division's leaders.

"We've lost the services of Mick Mills, Arnold Muhren, Alan Brazil and Frans Thijssen."

"But this isn't a club on the decline, and results in our more recent matches convince me that we can make it back to Europe."

"The youngsters have done a first class job and now is the time to consolidate our position among Britain's best teams."



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DAVE Swindlehurst has returned to his native London, bringing a glowing testimony to the capital's worth as a football power.

Swindlehurst, snatched from Derby County by West Ham under the very noses of Aston Villa just before the transfer deadline day in March, said: "I wanted to come back to the capital, I felt I had been away too long. London is the place to be, of that I've no doubt. And I'm very pleased to have returned."

The big Derby striker cost West Ham boss John Lyall £200,000; a sizeable fee in these times of crashing transfer sums. But Lyall, who had sold Sandy Clark to Glasgow Rangers for £150,000, clearly felt it was money well spent and Swindlehurst was equally confident that he, too, had made the right choice.

"To be honest I didn't have long to make up my mind. But when I met the manager the main thing he said was 'tell me how many players you can think of who have been unhappy at Upton Park'. I thought about that and knew he was right."

'Medical'

But Swindlehurst didn't really have his mind on the transfer for the first week. He explains: "Apart from rushing down to London to have a medical and sign the contract, I wasn't there five minutes and didn't even meet my colleagues until the day of my first match at Norwich."

"My little girl Rebecca, who is just three, was taken into hospital with pneumonia and we were in there virtually all the time. We were very frightened at first and I wasn't thinking about football. But the hospital was marvellous and happily she recovered quite quickly."

"When I got the chance to think about it at length, I knew I'd done the right thing. I signed a three-year contract for West Ham and am glad to be back in London."

Swindlehurst had a long stay with Crystal Palace and knows the special demands made upon players by fans in the South.

"In the North supporters appreciate any sort of success you have and are quite happy. But here, the fans are much more critical."

"The capital still has a lot going for it despite the difficulties of sides like Arsenal, Tottenham and even West Ham this season."

SWINDLEHURST AIMS TO SHOOT GODDARD TO GLORY



Paul Goddard (left) should benefit from Swindlehurst's presence

place in the England side.

"One of the major reasons I signed for West Ham was their solid organisation and lack of fuss behind the scenes."

"I've got to admit, some of Derby's troubles crept into the dressing room. It affected our play although Peter Taylor improved matters when he arrived."

"I want to concentrate solely on my football and West Ham's secure background will ensure I do that."

'Help'

Swindlehurst, who scored on his home debut v. Watford, is confident he can settle in quickly at West Ham. "I would love to help the side clinch a European place next season and goals would be a big help in that direction."

"I'm not worried about the switch from Second Division to First. I can handle that although I know it's a higher grade. But I wanted to come here and I want to do a job. Having to improve won't be any barrier to prevent me achieving those aims."

"After all, they could all end up in Europe next season — but sometimes that isn't enough."

"Capital fans want entertainment each week as well as success and to a certain extent, I think players have to turn their minds blank to all those demands. I believe people will still come and watch if the side is doing well."

"Southern people demand a lot more success but that doesn't worry me. I like the place and can

live with the pressures."

Swindlehurst is needed at West Ham to help Paul Goddard out of a goalscoring crisis which has lasted since the turn of the year.

His strength can be a big aid to Goddard and he says: "I'm hoping I can help all the side but obviously it would be nice to build a fine partnership with Paul. He's a great player and I'm sure we will hit it off. I'm confident our partnership will eventually win him a regular

BEAT THE DEADLINE DEALS

Andy Ritchie
Terry Connor
David Swindlehurst
Paul Hooks
Nicky Morgan
Mark McGuire
Keith Bowen
David West
Kevin Dillon
Alan Curbishley
Robert Hopkins
Trevor Ayott

Brighton to Leeds
Leeds to Brighton
Derby to West Ham
Notts County to Derby
West Ham to Portsmouth
Norwich to Barnsey
Brentford to Colchester
Dorchester to Liverpool
Birmingham to Portsmouth
Birmingham to Aston Villa
Aston Villa to Birmingham
Millwall to Luton

Exchange
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£15,000
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Exchange
£100,000 to 8 Ham
£60,000

Kevin Stonehouse
Mike Nutton
Brian Borrows
Mike Lester
Gordon Staniforth
Bob Mitchell
Emlyn Hughes
Steve Emery
Tony Red
Mike McCartney
Bob Lee
George Best

Blackburn to Huddersfield
Chelsea to Middlesbrough
Everton to Bolton
Bradford to Scunthorpe
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**ARSENAL
v.
MAN. UTD.**

MANCHESTER United's supremacy over Arsenal this season makes them firm favourites to win their FA Cup Semi-Final battle at Villa Park.

United are unbeaten in three matches against Arsenal this season, drawing in the League and winning both Semi-Final legs of their League Milk Cup encounters to reach Wembley.

United will be eager to return following their 2-1 defeat by Liverpool.

Neither team is a stranger to Wembley. Arsenal have appeared in four Finals since 1971, United three, and who can forget the epic battle in the 1979 FA Cup Final before Arsenal finally emerged as 3-2 winners?

No wonder the fans are relishing the thought of this tie.

Tony Woodcock cracks his side's first goal in Arsenal's 2-0 defeat of Aston Villa at Highbury.





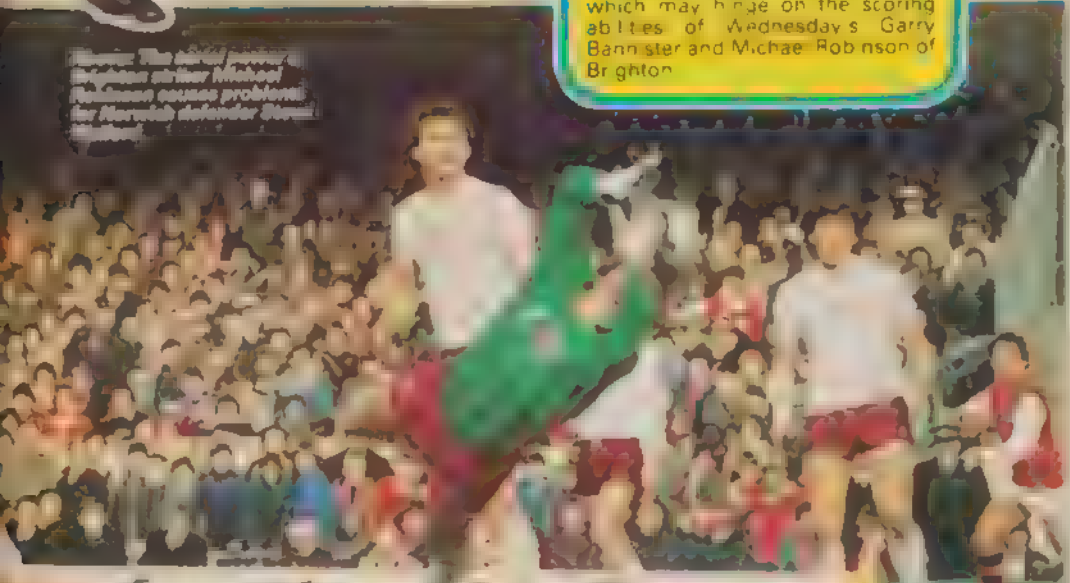
BRIGHTON v SHEFF. WED.

BATTLE of the underdogs - some might say. But both teams have shown impressive form in the Cup this year so neither could be discounted in the Final.

Brighton disposed of mighty Liverpool in the Fifth Round and have also claimed the scraps of Norwich, Manchester City and Newcastle.

Sheffield Wednesday showed their best form in the last round when they beat battling Burnley 5-0 in the replay.

Highbury stages this encounter which may hinge on the scoring abilities of Wednesday's Garry Bannister and Michael Robinson of Brighton.



for the 20th year



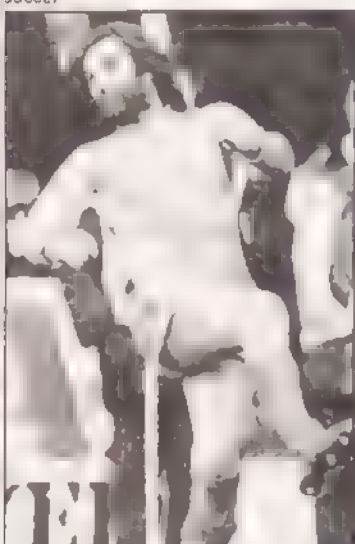
Quit, George

So George Best is making another come back this time with Bournemouth. Don't you think it's time he called it a day and left us with our memories of a truly great player?

VICTOR BUTCHERS,
STONE, KENT



Why shouldn't he keep playing as long as there is a club who wants him and he's enjoying himself? I'm fed up with snide comments about him not being the player he was ten years ago. Maybe he isn't, but if he was he'd be playing for Manchester United at Wembley instead of Bournemouth at Dean Court. I had the same thing. I retired from the big-time too early because people said I was over the hill, and then I was criticised for not being so sharp when I was enjoying a Saturday kick about in non-League soccer.



Blame Robson

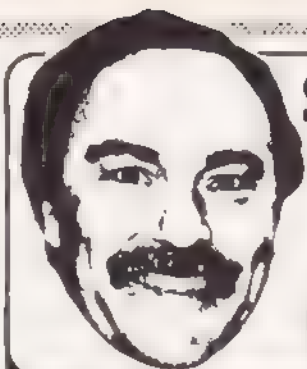
England manager Bobby Robson was too quick to point the finger of blame at his forwards for lack of heading ability after the goalless draw with Greece. Surely the blame lies with Robson himself. After all, he picked those players he later criticised.

NIGEL RAYMOND,
COVENTRY



Just before the game Bobby told me that football has always been a game of opinions. I know my opinions certainly weren't the same as his in the selection of that particular team! For instance, I would have had Gordon Cowans, Mark Chamberlain and Derek Statham instead of Gary Mabbutt, Steve Coppell and Kenny Sansom. But yes, it was a strange statement for Bobby to make. If he wanted strikers with heading ability, you don't pick Trevor Francis and Tony Woodcock. I suspect he'll go for a big man for England's next game.

England's aerial deficiency against Greece was criticised by manager Bobby Robson.



Straight shooting from

JIMMY GREAVES

Write exclusively to: Jimmy Greaves, SHOOT, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. £10 for Star Letter. £4 others published. Overseas readers receive SHOOT T-shirts (please state size, small, medium or large). When writing please mention two features you liked best in the latest issue.

This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from Wyeman Chua of Linkhoe Street, London NW1. He writes:

Lucky Grobbelaar

Manchester United's Gordon McQueen deserves great credit for his sporting attitude after being savagely fouled by Liverpool's Bruce Grobbelaar during the League Milk Cup Final. I'm sure I couldn't have so readily overlooked such a blatant professional foul which dramatically altered the course of the game.



Yes, Gordon was very sporting, but I'm sure in the back of his mind he knew he wasn't really in a goalscoring position when he was brought down. Even if he'd got past Grobbelaar, he would still have had a lot to do to score. But there's no excuse for Grobbelaar, who was very lucky not to be sent-off. He misjudged the situation and deliberately brought McQueen down. If the game had been at the start of the season there's no question that he would have gone. I was surprised he stayed on, because referee George Courtney took so much stick after allowing Willie Young to escape with a similar 'professional foul' on Paul Allen in the 1980 F.A. Cup Final.

Top honour

Congratulations on being named as greatest goalscorer of all time in the Whitbread Awards. It must be quite an honour.

STEPHEN HOWARD
COLCHESTER



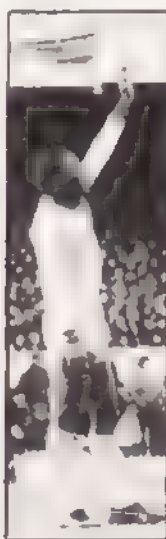
It is, particularly when you consider exactly what that means. Yet although it's tremendous to receive such an award, I never get carried away. No disrespect to those people who voted me top, but how can you compare me with players before my time and others who have scored goals since? It's like comparing Muhammad Ali and Rocky Marciano. They were both the best in their time, but you can't really say which was the better.



Tiger Terry

Why did Leeds allow Terry Connor to leave in exchange for Brighton's Andy Ritchie? In their present position, Leeds need battlers, and that's Terry's greatest attribute.

SIMON HUDSON
GROBY, LEICS



It's a strange move. I don't think Connor is necessarily taking a step forward even though Brighton are a First Division club. He'll probably be back in the Second next season and with a club with less ambition and potential than Leeds. I can only assume that Eddie Gray has seen Connor at close quarters and come to the opinion that he is going to be one of those players who will always have a lot of potential but who never quite manages to fulfil it.



Blues blunder

What is Ron Saunders playing at by selling Birmingham's two best players? If they are to stand any chance of avoiding the drop, surely they'll need men of the quality of Kevin Dillon and Alan Curbishley.

TONY COOK,
HALESOWEN, W. MIDLANDS



I'd have thought so, but Saunders is a very astute manager whose methods are often difficult to understand but so often bring results. After all, in their next game Blues beat Notts County 3-0, so maybe he was right. I was also surprised to see Dillon (above) and Curbishley go, but I'm not going to rush in and say it was a mistake.

Cheers Joe

Joe Corrigan's departure from Manchester City marks the end of an era at Maine Road. Joe has been a magnificent servant to this once-great club and hope he is just as successful in his new career in America.

MICHAEL BROWN,
SALE, CHESHIRE



Unfortunately, there have been a number of 'end of eras' since Joe first came to Manchester City in the 60's. Joe has indeed been a tremendous servant not just to City but to English football in general and I'd like to echo your sentiments. I can also see a lot of problems ahead for City, and I don't envy young Alex Williams in his attempt to succeed Joe behind a defence as wide open as a barn door.

United again

I know you've gone for Sheffield Wednesday to beat Brighton in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final at Highbury, but what about the Arsenal v Manchester United tie at Villa Park?

WENDY FORRESTER,
HALIFAX



It certainly won't be as easy for United as it was in the first leg of their Milk Cup Semi-Final. I suppose Arsenal will say it's their turn to win, but like so many others I think they are lacking in flair and imagination. If United have everybody 100 per cent fit, particularly Bryan Robson, then I think they'll just sneak it. But I suspect it will be very close.



After 20 years a Stoke man, Alan Dodd, now starring for old rivals Wolves, says he has

'NO REGRETS!'

ALAN Dodd was close to tears when he walked out of the Victoria Ground for the last time.

After 400 games and a 20-year association with Stoke City as supporter and player, Dodd was moving on to Wolves.

"I never thought that I could be so cut up about anything in football," he says.

"Stoke is my home town. The club had given me great pleasure and paid my wages for two-thirds of my life. Leaving the Victoria Ground to sign for Wolves was something I had never dreamed of. But I had no alternative. I had no future at Stoke, and now I've a new responsibility and a new challenge."

The challenge to which Dodd refers, of course, is to help Wolves regain a First Division place. And despite a few recent hiccups, he's convinced that goal will be achieved at the end of the season.

The ambition at the club was plain to see from the moment I arrived in November.

'Tighten'

"They'd just suffered a couple of four-goal defeats and my job was to tighten the defence up once more."

The £40,000 signing has done that job well, although in recent weeks Wolves have had problems at the other end of the field where goals have been hard to come by.

But Dodd is not unduly worried by this temporary lapse.

He explains: "When you've got forwards of the calibre of Andy Gray, Wayne Clarke and Mel Eves at the club, you know it is only a matter of time before the goals start flooding in again."

"Other players, such as Kenny Hibbitt and Mick Matthews, are also at their best going forward and now we've just got to knuckle down and start taking our chances."

After years of looking on Wolves as rivals, the 29-year-old defender admits he has been pleasantly surprised to discover what a fine club they are

"There's been a number of problems at Molineux in recent years, but I would have signed for them even if they hadn't been right at the top of the Second Division," he says.

"New manager Graham Hawkins is doing an outstanding job. His absolute honesty is the thing which most impresses me. He has the total respect of all the players simply because he is so straightforward with us."

Dodd is also delighted to be back in defence after spending most of last season in the Stoke midfield.

"I don't really know why I was played in midfield," he says. "Stoke had better players than me for that role."

"I can only assume that Richie Barker wanted an experienced player who always gives 100 per cent commitment, and I fitted the bill on that particular score."

"But I've always been happiest

occupying a central defensive role, and the job of sweeper was one I'd fancied because so many teams are now playing with that system."

Since accepting that role with Wolves, Dodd has helped to improve the club's 'goals against' column.

He says: "I think I've also helped to bring out the best in our young centre-half, John Pender, who loves to go forward and now has greater freedom to do so because

he knows I'm always there to cover for him."

"Playing with three central defenders has also left both our full-backs free to attack down the flanks."

Dodd is relishing the day-to-day involvement of life at Wolves, particularly after being banned by Stoke from training with the team during the summer.

"There were three of us — myself, Lee Chapman and Eric McManus — who had not signed new contracts and we had to go to Port Vale to train."

"Although I managed to reach a compromise, I made only one first team appearance this season before signing for Wolves, so I've been pleased that things have gone so well ever since."

"I now have a new life and a new target — to help Wolves back to their rightful place in the First Division."



Young defenders John Pender and Bob Coy have been helped by Dodd's arrival at Wolves.

SHOOT'S STAR FINDER FILE

Continuing our series in which SHOOT looks at players who could make the big time.

HOW THE RATING WORKS

- 5 — Work to be done — but could make the grade.
- 6 — With luck could make an impact.
- 7 — Obvious potential, but needs time to adjust.
- 8 — Should make the grade.
- 9 — All the hallmarks of quality.
- 10 — Could make international class.

DAVE BAMBER

CLUB: BLACKPOOL

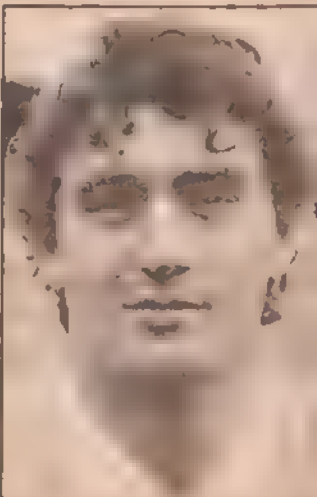
Position Striker. Age 24 Height 6'3" Weight 13st 10lbs League games 90 Goals 33

Strengths: Big and powerful in the air, a good header of the ball — but for his size good on the ground as well, and with a powerful shot in both feet.

Weaknesses: Came into soccer late after graduating at Manchester University, so still lacks experience — but has proved this season that his exceptional scoring record last term was no fluke.

Manager Sam Ellis' verdict: "There's no doubt in my mind that he could cope with life in the First Division. He might be big — but he can play on the floor as well, and that's a rare combination."

First Division potential rating: 8.



Breaking the age barrier

GEORGE Best's return to League football is one of the highlights of the season for me.

No other player in Britain could make a comeback at the age of 36 and more than double a club's gate.

But that's what happened when George played his first game for Bournemouth against Newport recently.

Instead of the usual three or four thousand, more than nine thousand turned up at Dean Court to see George's debut.

Forget about George's problems off the park. He still has charisma and star quality.

There's no doubt George is one of the most exciting players this country has ever produced.

Naturally he has lost some pace, but the magic is still there.

George's soccer brain is as active as ever.

When he signed for Bournemouth, George announced he was only 75 per cent fit.

Well, he could have fooled me. He is a naturally fit person and can get away with less training than most players.

Bestie's tremendous performance in the recent BBC TV Superstars competition proves how strong and keen he is.

I played against George when he was at Hibernian a few years ago.

He attracted a full house to Aberdeen, showed plenty of the old twisting and turning style and made the ball do most of the work.

I forget the result, but remember George's crowd-pleasing display.

In his prime Bestie was one of the quickest players in the game. He was incredibly sharp over ten yards.

Generally players with bags of skill don't like to be tackled. But George was no coward. He relished the physical game and was a real battler who took a great



Up front with

STEVE ARCHIBALD



deal of stick and came back for more.

I've only met him once to talk to. I was on holiday with my wife Maureen in Tampa Bay, Florida, a few years ago.

George was playing for San Jose Earthquakes and was in Tampa for a match against the Rowdies.

As luck would have it, George and his team-mates were staying in the same hotel.

I had a chat with him by the pool one afternoon talking football.

It's sad the latter part of George's career was clouded by one disaster after another. Maybe all he lacked was a few real friends who he could rely on... people who were only interested in George Best and not themselves.

If there were another six George Bests around today football

wouldn't be struggling to survive.

A few years ago players who passed the 30-years-of-age barrier were considered past their best.

Now there are so many so-called veterans not only doing first class jobs for their clubs but seemingly playing better than ever.

George Best made a comeback at 36. Alan Ball is 38 and doing a great job for Bristol Rovers.

Johnny Hollins (Arsenal), Billy Bonds (West Ham), Dave Watson (Stoke) and Chris Nicholl (Southampton) are all past 35 and still going strong.

Cardiff City's goal-ace Bob Hatton is 36, so is Derby County's former Forest star Archie Gemmill.

The incredible Pat Jennings is 38 and Southampton's former Ipswich and England defender Mick Mills is 34.

The daddy of them all appears to be Blackpool's Peter Noble who is 39 this year.

Finished at 30... don't you believe it.

Kenny Dalglish is 32, has been in devastating form this season and recently won the P.F.A. Player of the Year Award.

Don't talk about Golden Oldies to Kenny. He still thinks he's 21!

The secret of playing on until the late 30s? Look after yourself, train hard and above all retain your enjoyment of playing.

I certainly intend to keep on for as long as possible. I've certainly no thoughts about premature retirement.

Veterans Ray Clemence 35, and Paul Cooper 30, could be the stars of the action when Spurs entertain a much changed Ipswich side at White Hart Lane this Saturday (April 16th).

Alan Brazil will be keen to shine against the club that recently sold him to Spurs.

We won 2-1 at Portman Road early in the season. Garth Crooks and I scored for Spurs while that man Brazil notched for the opposition.

Alan has settled down very quickly at White Hart Lane and is a popular figure among the players.

Steve Archibald

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Make-or-break for NASL

WHAT is undoubtedly the most critical season in the history of the North American Soccer League opens in Tampa, Florida on Friday, April 22, with the Tampa Bay Rowdies playing host to the Tulsa Roughnecks.

Let there be no doubt about it, the NASL is in trouble, big trouble, unless attendances start taking an upward swing, for while the popularity of soccer as a participation sport increases by leaps and bounds all across North America, the game as a spectator sport is struggling at the turnstiles and drowning in red ink.

Just three seasons ago the NASL boasted 24 teams, but going into the 1983 season there were just half that number and some of those teams are on a shaky footing.

However, some of the League executives welcome the reduction in size, feeling that the League expanded too fast and that now they are down to a hard core of solid franchises.

This is questionable, for while clubs like the Cosmos (pictured celebrating last year's triumph), Vancouver Whitecaps, Tampa Bay Rowdies and the Toronto Blizzard undoubtedly have solid backing, a big question mark hangs over the likes of Team America who will be playing in Washington D.C. where



four previous NASL teams have folded.

Much of the spotlight in the early season will fall on Team America (in effect the U.S. national side) and whether or not a team of Americans can compete in the League and also draw fans into the stadiums both at home and away.

The failure of this team could hurt the whole League.

Another question mark hangs over Montreal, where the Manic have already indicated that this will be their last season if the deal to turn the Manic into Team Canada for 1984 is finalised.

This year the NASL also faces opposition from a new source — the United States Football League — whose season is already under way and continues until July.

At that time the National Football League season is gearing up, producing almost year round American grid iron football, America's most popular spectator sport.

In the end whether or not the NASL lives or dies may rest with the players and coaches and whether or not the product displayed for 90 minutes on the field is attractive to the spectators.

The only way the NASL will survive is with fast, attractive, attacking soccer and with every player giving one hundred per cent.

SOCRATES THE CHOICE

THE Brazilian Footballer of the Year (1982) was Sócrates, who polled 14,305 votes by readers of the magazine *Pelecap*, plus the votes of 40 journalists and the unanimous votes of the special jury which included Zico, who was the first winner of the trophy.

Next year's special jury will therefore include Sócrates, as all previous winners of the trophy are automatically included in this section of the voting.

Walters waits

FORMER England Canadian national team only to return when the Canadian Soccer Association has decided to play the Canadian national team in its three game series against Scotland this summer.



CRUYFF FRAUD MYSTERY

JOHAN CRUYFF (right) has appeared to court in Holland. Whether he has returned from the USA in 1980, after his spell with Washington, he played three games for the Dutch Division Two club OS '79.

According to the club books, Cruyff was paid £12,500 for his three appearances for OS '79, but



he stated in his tax returns that he received only £5,000. The court has to decide where the missing £7,500

went and if fraud was involved, and by whom. Cruyff swears under oath that he received only £5,000.

Barnes on target

AMAZING what money can do! Peter Barnes' team-mate Hipolito Rincon was promised a £5,000 bonus by the Betis directors if he finished the season as the League's top scorer.

At that stage he was two adrift of Zaragoza's Paraguayan striker Raul Amerilla, but Rincon immediately responded with two goals against League leaders Athletic Bilbao.

Peter Barnes was also among the scorers as Betis romped to a shock 5-1 win.



Barcelona v Spurs again?

REMEMBER the Cup-Winners' Cup clash between Spurs and Barcelona (above) in 1982? Not exactly a pleasant, sporting game was it?

Well, the two teams look all set for a repeat performance in Spain this summer, with The Rock of Gibraltar as backdrop.

Both Barcelona and Spurs have been invited to a summer tournament in La Linea in mid-August, along with another Spanish and a Hungarian team.

If Spurs decline the invitation, the organisers aim to approach Manchester United.

ACCORDING to the Yugoslav F.A. and Yugo TV, one game per week is televised live. But now for the second half of the season the four top clubs, Partizan Belgrade, Dynamo Zagreb, Hajduk Split and Red Star have got together and announced that they will not allow cameras into their grounds.

THE Austrian F.A. received £200,000 more from the 1982 World Cup than it expected, so it's decided to share the cash with "all Austrian clubs with money problems." In short: all of them.

THE economic and political problems in Ghana have converted the country into one of Africa's top exporters of footballers.

Ghanaian stars are in demand following their triumph in last year's African Nations Cup, and four of the team have now headed for the Persian Gulf.

Four others have headed for the Ivory Coast, including a player named Koffi.

Sounds like a refreshing name.

Look — it's Umoh!

THE first coloured player to appear in Hungarian football is former Nigerian Youth international Umoh Patrick Bernard, who has signed for First Division Ujpest Dozsa.

The Hungarians cannot pay him, but the Nigerian does not mind for he is receiving a grant from the Hungarian government to study in Budapest and told Dozsa officials that he might be persuaded to stay and play on after his studies if he does well.

LUTZ EIGENDORF, the 26-year-old former East German international, was killed driving home in his Alfa Romeo after playing for his West German Bundesliga club Eintracht Braunschweig.

He is the third Braunschweig player to have been killed in a road accident since 1963 and as a mark of respect Braunschweig's next League game, away to Schalke 04, was postponed.

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, 16th April

Aston Villa v WBA

SINCE Albion returned to the First Division in 1976 they have only beaten Villa twice in 13 League derbies. The first time was in May, 1979 when John Treweek got the game's only goal at Villa Park, and the second time was last season when Nicky Cross was the scorer of the only goal at The Hawthorns.

Coventry v B'ham

COVENTRY will be out to avenge their 1-0 defeat at St. Andrews earlier this season. With Birmingham so badly placed in the table, a home victory seems likely, but don't forget that the visitors won 1-0 at Highfield Road last season, and Coventry have only beaten Birmingham once in their last six League clashes.

So'ton v Liverpool

SAINTS had made a shaky start to the season when they suffered the night mare of being hammered 5-0 at Anfield last September and have made a big improvement since. Last season at The Dell, a goal just two minutes from time by Ronnie Whelan gave Liverpool a 3-2 victory. If this game is half as entertaining most fans will be satisfied.

Spurs v Ipswich

IF Spurs beat Ipswich on Saturday they will have completed their first League double over the East Anglian club since 1970-71. Earlier this season Spurs came from behind to win 2-1 at Portman Road and as Ipswich have seldom done well at White Hart Lane this could be Spurs' fifth victory in a run of six home League games with Ipswich. Town's latest win on this ground was 2-0 in April, 1980 when Paul Mariner and Russell Osman got the goals.

Watford v Forest

FOREST make their first League visit to Vicarage Road for more than 32 years. Then they met in the old Third Division (South) in a season which ended with Forest winning promotion and Watford having to apply for re-election. The result on that occasion was a 1-1 draw. Forest will be happy to force another draw on Saturday, despite having beaten Watford 2-0 at home last September.

Wolves v Bolton

BOLTON have taken some hammerings on this ground, including six scores of five goals against them, one of six goals, and a 7-1 defeat in 1950-51. It is difficult to see Bolton improving on their record of two draws and seven defeats in their last nine visits, especially as Wolves have already beaten them 1-0 at Burnden Park early this season.

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORES

Saturday, March 19

Second Division

OLDHAM (0) 1 (Palmer) 6,189
FULHAM (0) 0
Oldham: Gorum, Sinclair, Ryan, Keegan, Clements, Hoodickin, Wyld, Atkinson, McDonough, Sealy, Palmer.
Fulham: Peyton, Hopkins, Lock, O'Driscoll, Brown, Gale, Davies, Wilson (McDermott), Coney, Houghton, Lewington.

QPR (4) 4 (Sealy, Flanagan, Gregory 2) 9,541
ROTHERHAM (0) 0
QPR: Hucker, Neill, Dawes, Waddock, Hazell, Fenwick, Mick, Whyte, Sealy, Stannard, Flanagan, Gregory, Rotherham, Mimms, Forrest, Frier, Johnson, Hughes, Green, Townner, Gow, Seasmith, Hansen, McBride.

SHREWSBURY (1) 1 (Brown) 4,183
BOLTON (0) 0
Shrewsbury: Ogilovic, Williams, Johnson, Turner, Pearson, Stevens, Pettis, McLaren, Brown, Robinson, Bates.
Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Deakin, Redfern, Jones, Doyle, Chandler, Rudge, Moores, Hoggan, Thompson.

Third Division

BRADFORD (0) 0
BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Cassell) 3,878

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 2 (Barrett, Stephens)
SOUTHEND (0) 2 (Linnford, Phillips) 6,025

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Duncan)
PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 6,489

HUDDERSFIELD 0
BOURNEMOUTH 0 8,630

LINCOLN (2) 2 (Shepley 2)
CHESTERFIELD (0) 0 4,454

NEWPORT (1) 1 (Tynan)
READING (0) 0 3,588

PLYMOUTH (1) 1 (Phillips)
DONCASTER (1) 2 (Wilson 2) 3,406

PRESTON (1) 2 (Bruce, Eholt)
CARDIFF (0) 1 (Hemmerman) 4,608

SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 3 (Kenworthy, Edwards, Young)
OXFORD (1) 2 (Jones, Vinter) 11,786

WALSALL (1) 3 (Keane, Summerfield 2)
EXETER (0) 2 (P. Rogers 2) 2,669

WIGAN (0) 0
ORIENT (0) 1 (Godfrey) 2,954

WREXHAM (2) 4 (Hunt 2, Arkwright, Buxton)
MILLWALL (2) 3 (Bremner 2, Chatterton) 2,668

Fourth Division

ALDERSHOT (2) 2 (Benton 2)
YORK (2) 3 (Ford, Walwyn 2) 1,528

BURY (1) 3 (Gore, Johnson, Jakub)
CHESTER (1) 2 (Simpson 2) 2,453

CREWE (1) 3 (Walker, Walker 2, Pen)
BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Stewart) 2,638

HEREFORD (1) 2 (Harvey, Phillips)
HALIFAX (0) 0 2,006

MANSFIELD (0) 1 (Nicholson)
COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Mull) 2,371

PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Gynn)
HULL (0) 1 (Mull) 3,805

PORT VALE (1) 4 (Bromage, Newton 3)
ROCHDALE (0) 0 5,129

SWINDON (1) 1 (Rowland)
DARLINGTON (1) 2 (Alanog, McLean) 2,815

WIMBLEDON (0) 2 (Leslie, Hodges)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 2,324

Scottish Premier

ABERDEEN (0) 1 (Strachan) pen)
DUNDEE UNITED (2) 2 (Mile 2) 24,000

Aberdeen: Leighton, Cooper, McLeish, Rougrie, Stachan, Bell, McMaster, McGhee, Hewitt, Watt, Simpson, Black.

Dundee: Udd, McAlpine, Gough, Hegarty, Narey, Mappas, Kirkwood, Phillips, Stark, Bennen, Milne, Dodds.

Dundee Utd McAlpine, Gough, Hegarty, Narey, Mappas, Kirkwood, Phillips, Stark, Bennen, Milne, Dodds.



Dundee United's Ralph Milne

DUNDEE (2) 2 (Kidd, Scrimgeour)
CELTIC (1) 1 (McGarvey) 11,196

Dundee: Kelly, McGeechie, Smith, McDonald, Fraser, Bell, Scrimgeour, Mackie, Sinclair, Kidd, Ferguson, Caldwell, Bonner, McGrain, McAdam, Arken, Sinclair (Reid), Sullivan (McCluskey), McStay, McLeod, Provan, Nicholas.

KILMARNOCK (2) 4 (McGivern, Clarke, Gallagher 2)
MORTON (0) 0 1,200

Kilmarnock: McCulloch, Cockburn, Clark, Clark, J. Armstrong, Clarke, McGivern, MacLeod, Gallagher, Bryson (Cuthbertson), Simpson.

Morton: Baines, Hayes (McNee), Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Duffy (Oak), Payne, Docherty, Cochrane, Gavagan, Houston.

RANGERS (1) 1 (McClelland)
MOTHERWELL (0) 0 1,700

Rangers: McCloy, Dawson, McClelland, McPherson, Peterson, Bett, Cooper (Dunlop), Pryce (MacKinnon), Clark, Redford, MacDonald.

Motherwell: Walker, Dornan, MacLeod, Forbes, Davidson, Mauchlan, Gahagan, Rafferty (Coyne), Harrow, McQuirk, O'Hara (Flavin).

ST MIRREN (0) 3 (Fulton, Somner, Logan)
HIBERNIAN (0) 0 4,215

St Mirren: Thomson, Clark, Wilson, McCormack, Abercrombie, Fulton, Stark, McDougall, Somner, McAvanis, Logan.

Hibernian: Rough, Sneddon, Duncan, Callaghan, Rae, McNamara, Connolly, Rice, Irvine, Thomson, Harey (Murray).

ALLOA 0
DUMBARTON 0 647

AYR (1) 1 (Frye)
AIRDRIE (0) 1 (Rodger) 939

CLYDE (1) 2 (McVeigh, pen, Reilly)
QUEEN'S PARK (1) 1 (Nicholson) 750

DUNFERMLINE (0) 1 (Stewart)
CLYDEBANK (0) 1 (Wallamson) 1,100

HAMILTON (0) 0
RAITH (0) 5 (Marshall 2, Harris, Kerr, pen, Russell) 824

HEARTS (1) 4 (Robertson 3, Pettigrew)
PARTICK (0) 0 7,000

ST JOHNSTONE (0) 1 (Brannigan)
FALKIRK (0) 0 2,285

SCOTTISH SECOND

ALBION (1) 1 (Evans)
FORFAR (0) 0 250

ARBROATH (0) 3 (Steele, pen, Harley, Lees)
BERWICK (1) 1 (Moyes) 502

BRECHIN (1) 4 (Campbell 3, Paterson)
COWDENBEATH (0) 1 (Tierney) 500

EAST FIFE (4) 4 (Halley, Thomson, pen, Carthness 2)
MONTROSE (0) 0 450

EAST STIRLING (1) 1 (Meekin, pen)
MEADOWBANK (2) 2 (Stewart, Young) 500

QUEEN OF THE SOUTH (2) 3 (Cloy, pen, Busby, Gordon)
STIRLING (0) 5 (Cochran 2, Torrance 3) 250

STENHOUSEMUIR (1) 1 (Murray)
STRANRAER (1) 1 (Murdoch) 250

Sunday, March 20

Fourth Division

NORTHAMPTON (0) 2 (Gage, Sandy)
SCUNTHORPE (1) 1 (Cowl) 2,634

TORQUAY (0) 0
BRISTOL CITY (1) 2 (Crawford, Riley) 3,094

Tuesday, March 22

First Division

ARSENAL (2) 2 (Rix, Whyte)
IPSWICH (0) 2 (Wark, Putney) 17,639

Arsenal: Wood, Hollins, Sansom, Devine, Whyte, Nicholas, Talbot, Davis, Sunderland, Woodcock, Rix, Ipswich: Cooper, Gernon, Bunney, Putney, Osman, Butcher, Wark, McCall, O'Avray, Thyssen, O'Callaghan.

BRIGHTON (2) 2 (Robinson, Howett)
LIVERPOOL (0) 2 (Rush 2) 25,030

Brighton: Moseley, Gelling, Ramsey, Grealish, Foster, Stevens, Case, Smith, Robinson, Howett, Smith, Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Kennedy, Lawrenson, Whelan, Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Rush, Johnston, Thompson (Fairclough).

MANCHESTER UTD (0) 2 (Stapleton, McGarvey)
WEST HAM (0) 1 (Devonshire) 14,229

Manchester Utd: Bailey, Gidman, Albiston, Moses, McGrath, Duxbury, Wilkins, Muhran, Stapleton (Macari), McGarvey, Coppell.

West Ham: Perkins, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Van der Elst, Goddard, Orr (Dickens), Allen, Pike.

WATFORD (0) 2 (Bissett 2)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 1 (Ferguson) 14,229

Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Rostron, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Callaghan, Bissett, Barnes, Jackett, Jobson, Armstrong.

Birmingham: Cotton, Hagen, Dennis, Stevenson, Blake, Haisen, Davis, Ferguson, Harford, Curshley, Dillon.

Second Division

QPR (2) 5 (Sealy 2, Hazell, Stannard, Gregory)
CHARLTON (1) 1 (Little) 10,776

QPR: Hucker, Neill, Dawes, Waddock, Hazell, Fenwick, Mickelwell (Allen), Sealy, Stannard, Flanagan, Gregory, Charlton, Johns, Curtis, Dickenson, McAlister, Smith, Berry, Aizlewood, Harris, Gritt, Little, Robinson.

SHEFFIELD WED (0) 2 (McCulloch, Megson)
LEICESTER (1) 2 (McDonald, Smith A) 14,036

Sheff Wed: Bolder, Stannard, Bailey, Smith, Lyons, Shelton, Megson, Taylor, Pearson, McCulloch, Haard, Leicester: Wallington, Smith, Ramsay, McDonald, English, O'Neill, Lynex, Unwin (May), Smith A, Daly, Wilson.

Third Division

BRENTFORD (1) 1 (Bowles)
OXFORD (0) 1 (Hebbard) 5,086

Scottish First

PARTICK (1) 1 (McDowall)
RAITH (0) 0 1,200

Wednesday, March 23

First Division

NORWICH (0) 1 (Walford)
COVENTRY (0) 1 (Whitton) 13,944

Norwich: Woods, Heylock, Downs, Mandham, Walford, Watson, Barham, O'Neill (Channon), Deehan, Berisford, Bannister.

Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Whetton, Fandis, Halsey, Hunt, Hendrie.

TOTTENHAM (1) 2 (Falco 2)
ASTON VILLA (0) 0 22,455

RERS... LINE-UPS... RESU

Tottenham Clemence, Hughton, O'Reilly, Roberts, Miller, Parryman, Mabbett, Brazil, Falco, Hoddie (Gibson), Gahn.
Aston Villa Spink, Williams, Gibson, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Morley, Withe, Cowans, Walters.

Second Division: Oxford v Barnley postponed.

Third Division

LINCOLN (0) 1 (Bel) 4,742
NEWPORT (3) 4 (Tynes 2, Lowndes 2)

Scottish Premier

RANGERS 61,082
 Celtic: Bonnar, McGraw, Reid, Aitken, McAdam, Sullivan, Provan (McCusker), McStay, Nicholas, MacLeod, McGarvey.
 Rangers: McCloy, Dawson, McClelland, Macpherson, Paterson, Bell, Cooper, Mackinnon, Clark, Redford (Prytz), MacDonald (Daly), Hibs v Aberdeen postponed.

NOTTS CO (0) 0 11,744
 Birmingham: Colon, Hagan, Dennis, Stevenson, Bleke, Van den Hauwe, Gayle, Ferguson, Harford, Halsall, Hopkins.
 Notts Co: Avramovic, Benjamin, Worthington, Hunt, Kitchin, Richards, Harkouk (Clarke), Goodwin, McCulloch, Christie, O'Brian.

BRIGHTON 0
ASTON VILLA 14,657
 Brighton: Mosley, Ramsay, Gelling, Grealish (Smith), Foster, Stevens, Case, Connor, Robinson, Howlett, Smith.
 Aston Villa: Spink, Williams, Gibson, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Morley, Withe, Cowans, Walters.

EVERTON (1) 2 (Ainscow, Heath)
ARSENAL (0) 3 (Robson, Sunderland, Woodcock) 18,318
 Everton: Arnold, Stevens (Irvine), Bailey, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Richardson, Ainscow, McMahon, Sharp, Heath, Shedy.
 Arsenal: Wood, Robson, Sansom, Whyte, O'Leary, Nicholas, Talbot, Davis, Sunderland, Woodcock, Rix.

LUTON (1) 1 (Horton pen)
SUNDERLAND (1) 3 (Pickering 2, James) 11,221
 Luton: Godden, Stephens, Elliott, Horton, Goodyear, Donaghy, Hill, Aylott, Walsh, Turner (Daniel), Moss.

QPR Hucker, Neill, Dawes, Waddock, Hazell, Fenwick, Micklewhite, Sealy, Stannard, Flanagan, Gregory.

BOLTON (0) 0
DERBY (0) 2 (Brolly, Wilson) 7,041
 Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Barry, Redfern, Jones, Doyle, Chandler, Rudge, Moores, Hoggan, Gray, Derby, Cherry, Berton, Buckley, Gemmill, Powell, Fletcher, Brolly, Dawson, Wilson, Hooks, Mills.

CAMBRIDGE (0) 2 (Sinton 2)
BURNLEY (0) 0 3,548
 Cambridge: Webster, Donaldson, Murray, Turner, Fallon, Finney, Christie (Redly), Sinton, Goldsmith, Fisher, Cooke.
 Burnley: Stevenson, Laws, Donachie, Phelan, Dobson, Hynn, Scott, Steven, Taylor, Donovan, Young.

CHELSEA (0) 0
BARNLEY (1) 3 (Hales og, Cunningham, Parker) 7,223
 Chelsea: Francis, Lee, Hutchings, Burnstead, Chivers, Pates, Haves, Walker (Jones), Speed, Rhoades, Brown, Canoville.
 Barnley: Parce, Joyce, Chambers, McGuire, Banks, McCarthy, Law, Parker, Robson, Cunningham, Birch.

FULHAM (2) 4 (Wilson 2, Davies, Lewington)
GRIMSBY (0) 0 8,098
 Fulham: Peyton, Hopkins, Lock, O'Driscoll, Brown, Gale, Davies, Wilson, Coney, Houghton, Lewington, Grimsby, Betch, D. Moore, Crosby, Waters, Saxby (Crombie), K. Moore, Ford, Bonnyman, Wilkinson, O'Dell, Cumming.

LEEDS (0) 2 (Ritchie, F. Gray pen)
CRYSTAL PALACE (1) 1 (Murphy pen) 13,973
 Leeds: Harvey, Thomas, F. Gray, Shenden, Hart, Dickinson, Hird, Butterworth, Ritchie, Donnelly, Graham.
 Palace: Fry, Locke, Murphy, Nabbing, Cannon, Gilbert, Brown, Hughton, Jones, Giles, Haire.

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 3 (Bell, Baxter 2)
CHARLTON (0) 0 7,057
 Middlesbrough: O'Hanlon, Nattrass, Bolton, Baxter, Mowbray, Otto (Currie), Sugrue, Kennedy, Wood, Shearer, Bell.
 Charlton: Johns, Griffith, Auzewood, McAllister, Smith, Berry, Bulivant, Harris, Haines-Little, Robinson.

NEWCASTLE (0) 2 (Keegan pen, McDermott)
LEICESTER (1) 2 (L. noker 2) 22,655
 Newcastle: Carr, Anderson, Wharton, Martin, Clarke, Carney, Keegan, McDonald (McCreery), Varad, McDermott, Waddle.
 Leicester: Wallington, Ramsey, B. Smith, McDonald, English, O'Neill, Lyness, Linaker, A. Smith, Daly, Wilson.

ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (McBride pen)
CARLISLE (0) 2 (K. Robson, Poskett) 5,486
 Rotherham: Mims, Forrest, Friar, Gow, Johnson, Jean, Annett, Seaman, Moore, Mitchell, McBride, Carlisle, Swinburne, Parker, Hargh, Coughlin, Rushbury, McCartney, K. Robson, B. Robson, Poskett, Benson (Craig), Shoulder.

SHEFFIELD WED 0
SHREWSBURY 0 14,320
 Sheffield Wed: Bolder, Sterland, Bailey, Shirdiff, Lyons, Shelton (Pearson), Magson, Taylor, Bannister, McCulloch, Heard.
 Shrewsbury: Ogrizovic, Williams, Turner, Johnson, Pearson, Stevens, Patta, MacLaren, Brown, Robinson, Bess.

WOLVES 0
OLDHAM 0 12,940
 Wolves: Burridge, Humphrey, Palmer, Smith, Pender, Dodd, Killoch, Clarke, Gray, Eves, Matthews.
 Oldham: Gorm, Sinclair, Ryan, Bowden, Clements, Hoolickin, Wyde, Atkinson, McDonough, Henry.

Third Division

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 0
NEWPORT (1) 1 (Vaughan) 5,121

BRENTFORD (1) 1 (Bowles pen)
HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0 6,277

CARDIFF (0) 1 (G. Bennett)
LINCOLN (0) 0 8,021

CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Windridge)
PRESTON (0) 1 (Green og) 2,332

EXETER (1) 2 (Crown, Pratt)
BRADFORD (0) 1 (Campbell) 2,639

OXFORD (1) 1 (Hebbard pen)
PLYMOUTH (1) 1 (Cooper) 4,788

PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 (Tait)
BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0 17,828

SOUTHEND (1) 3 (Phillips 3 (1 pen))
SHEFFIELD UTD (1) 1 (Morris pen) 3,769



Mark Falco celebrates his first goal for Spurs against Aston Villa.

Sunderland: Turner, Nicholl, Munro, Atkins, Chisholm, Proctor, Venison, Worthington, Rowell, James, Pickering.

Scottish First

FALKIRK (1) 1 (Johnson)
CLYDE (1) 2 (Nevin, O'Neill) 1,340

Scottish Second: Albion v Cowdenbeath, Meadowbank v Stranraer postponed.

Friday, March 25

Third Division

DONCASTER (0) 0
GILLINGHAM (0) 2 (Bowman, Casarino) 2,528

ORIENT 0
WREXHAM 0 1,969

READING (1) 1 (Dixon)
WALSALL (1) 1 (Summerfield) 3,107

Fourth Division

COLCHESTER (1) 3 (Osborne, Bowen, Adcock)
TRANMERE (2) 3 (Griffiths, Aspinall, Brown) 2,547

SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 (Hunter 2)
CREWE (0) 0 2,938

Hull v Walsby postponed.

Saturday, March 26

League Milk Cup Final

LIVERPOOL (0) 2 (Kennedy, Whelan)
MANCHESTER UTD (1) 1 (Whitely) 100,000

Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Kennedy, Lawrenson, Whelan, Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Rush, Johnston (Fairclough), Southey.
 Manchester Utd: Boney, Duxbury, Albiston, Moses, Macari, McQueen, Wilkins, Muhren, Stapleton, Whiteside, Coppell.

First Division

BIRMINGHAM (2) 3 (Ferguson 2 (1 pen), Harford)

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 0
IPSWICH (0) 1 (Wark) 21,845

Manchester City: Williams, Ranson, Bond, Reid, Caton, Power, Reeves, Baker, Harford, Bodek (Tusari), Cross.
 Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, Daman, Butcher, Gernon, Putney, Wark, McCall, O'Callaghan, Mariner, O'Avray.

NORWICH (0) 1 (Doshan pen)
WEST HAM (1) 1 (Dickens) 18,586

Norwich: Woods, Maycock, Downs, Mendham, Walford, Watson, Barham, O'Neill, Dastar, Bertschin, Jack, Shannon.

West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Orr, Goddard, Swindlehurst, Dickens, Pike.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (1) 1 (Hodge)
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 2 (Armstrong, Wallace) 13,481

Notts For: Van Breukelen, Anderson, Bowyer, Gunn, Fairclough, Walsh, Wilson, Wallace (Wigley), Davenport, Hodge, Robertson.

Southampton: Shilton, Agboola, Mills, Williams, Nicholl, Wright, Holmes, Baird, Moran, Armstrong, Wallace.

STOKE (1) 4 (Thomas, Painter, M. Chamberlain, McLaughlin)
WATFORD (0) 0 14,278

Stoke: Fox, Bould, Hampton, Bracewell, Watson, Berry, Painter, McIlroy, Griffiths, Thomas, M. Chamberlain (McLaughlin).

Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Rosiran, Taylor, Sims, Boffa, Coughlan, Bissett, Armstrong, Jackett, Lobman, Baines.

SWANSEA (1) 2 (James, Latchford)
WBA (0) 1 (Thompson) 11,222

Swansea: Sander, Marustik, Richards, Stevenson, Lewis, Rajkovic, Lovendus, James, Walsh (Curtis), Stanley, Latchford.

WBA: Barron, Webb, Slatham, Zondervan, Wile, Robertson, Jol, Thompson, Regis, Owen, Whitehead (Cross).

Second Division

BLACKBURN (1) 1 (Warner pen)
QPR (2) 3 (Stannard 2, Flanagan) 5,317

Blackburn: Genoa, Branagan, Rathbone, Randall, Mill, Keady (Bell), Miller, Hamilton, Lowey, Garne, Brotherton.

It happened this week

15 YEARS AGO

West Bromwich Albion and Liverpool still can't settle who's booked for the F.A. Cup Semi-Finals. After a goalless game at Albion, extra-time can't split the teams from 1-1 in the Anfield replay. But, in the Fairs Cup, Leeds are more decisive. In their second leg against Rangers, goals from Peter Lorimer and Johnny Giles get them through. Now they're drawn to meet another Scots side, Dundee, in the Semi.

10 YEARS AGO

European Semi-Final first legs dominate the week's interest. In the European Cup, Derby go down 3-1 away to Juventus. Better news, though, for Leeds in the Cup-Winners' Cup. Despite Allan Clarke being sent-off, his earlier goal is enough to take a slender lead over Hajduk Split.

And it's the same 1-0 margin — a goal from defender Alec Lindsay — by which Liverpool keep their noses in front of Spurs in an all-English UEFA Cup Semi.

Pat Jennings is voted "Footballer of the Year" by the Football Writers' Association, with Paul Madeley runner-up. Emyln Hughes and Alan Gilzean tie for third place.

Leaders Liverpool struggle at home to beat bottom-club WBA, and a Kevin Keegan penalty is the only goal of the game. But with second-placed Arsenal dropping a home point to Spurs, the bookies make Liverpool clear 4-1 on favourites to take the title.

And it's celebrations for Norwich. A David Cross goal is enough to beat Chelsea — for their first League win since November!

5 YEARS AGO

Holders Liverpool reach the European Cup Final again, this time with the "home" bonus of playing at Wembley. They beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 3-0 (4-2 on aggregate) with goals from Ray Kennedy, Kenny Dalglish, and Jimmy Case.

Now they meet Bruges, surprise conquerors of Juventus, whom they beat in the 1976 UEFA Cup Final.

Liverpool are clearly on top form, but Ron Greenwood reluctantly bows to their request not to include any of their players in his squad for next week's prestige Wembley game against Brazil as they have a vital League match the night before.

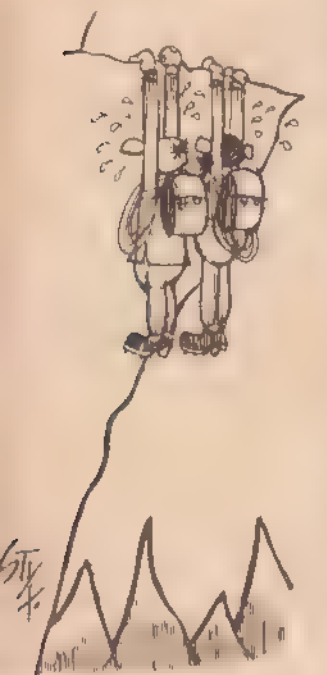
There are two big transfers. Manchester United collect a club-record £250,000 when Gordon Hill goes to Derby, while Birmingham's Trevor Francis signs a £50,000 contract with Jimmy Hill's Detroit Express to play just 20 summer games in the States. League leaders Forest drop a rare home point to Leeds, and Everton marginally reduce the gap at the top when a Bob Latchford penalty disposes of Ipswich. But happily for Clough, another challenger in Manchester City surprisingly crash 3-1 at home to WBA. And Forest need just four more points to make sure of the title.

The real crunch-game is at Brighton, where Alan Mullery's lads meet — and beat — Second Division promotion rivals Spurs 3-1. Sadly, a great match is spoilt by a 14-minute hold-up after a pitch invasion.

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Okay then . . . who hit who?"



"Hanging on this precipice makes you think. Wonder how Palace are getting on."



"Pulled a back muscle trying an extra-long throw."

THE EXPERTS AGREE —

PAUL Elliott is the teenage defender who cannot fail. When he signed the tall, lean, talented England Youth international from Charlton for £150,000, Luton manager David Pleat scooped the pool with one of the shrewdest transfer deals this season.

"Five years from now, he'll be England's centre-half," forecasts 58-times capped Wales defender Leighton Phillips.

"An outstanding prospect," agrees West Bromwich Albion's 500-match veteran John Wile. Phillips played alongside Elliott

have time to show what you can do.

"In the Second, for instance, opposing players shut you down as the ball reaches you. So, inevitably, the long clearance over the top is the safety first tactic . . . and that is not how I aim to play. I like movement and constructive build up.

"The former England Youth team manager John Cartwright used to insist 'Attack space' and that's my style. Given the chance, I'll be up there to assist the forwards. Luton play the progressive, bold football that David Pleat encourages from young players."

ELLIOTT FOR ENGLAND



Elliott thanks Phillips for his start in football. "He taught me so much when we were together at Charlton. An experienced international with something like 500 League games behind him can only be beneficial to your career; so I listened to everything Leighton told me."

Phillips confirms: "So many young players come into the game today believing that they know it all. Paul started from the viewpoint that he knew very little. That is one of the main reasons why he's going to make such a success of his career."

"It will take him a couple of seasons to become completely comfortable with First Division tactical battles. But then I'm sure he'll be on his way to an England shirt.

'Command'

"He has every quality that such a player needs: positive command in the air, pace, ambition and a willingness to learn."

Elliott has left behind a deeply troubled, financially strained club but says: "I just hope that the money Charlton collected for me will do them some good. It was best for them that I left — and best for me too.

"I've joined a club where the manager encourages youth, and the welcome from every player at Kenilworth Road helped me to settle in straight away.

"They obviously feel what I feel: that Luton could be on the threshold of something really exciting. I'm going to enjoy it more and more — and my first

priority is to help Luton to those points we need to climb up the table.

"If there is an extra target in the near future, it is to win a place in England's Under-21 squad. Playing well enough to force my way in would be very special."

Luton currently have the worst defensive record in the First Division, and Elliott's form is suffering as much as anybody's.

But if they can avoid the drop, Elliot can go on to greater things.



Luton new-boy Paul Elliott owes a great deal to his former Charlton team-mate Leighton Phillips (inset)

SUNDERLAND'S devoted fans do not have long to wait for the success their loyalty deserves.

Considering the recent Roker history that may appear a rash promise to make. But it is one which Barry Venison, Sunderland's England Under-21 international, is adamant can be fulfilled within two seasons.

Undeterred by the almost annual ritual of a struggle against relegation Venison is convinced manager Alan Durban has hit upon the right blend of experience and enthusiasm.

Heartened by the impact made by Frank Worthington and Leighton James on a relatively young side, he insists "We now

VENISON HAILS THE ROKER 'VETERANS'

have something to build upon

It is no coincidence that we have been putting some solid performances together since Frank and Leighton arrived. We are a much better balanced side, and they give us the know how we have lacked in the past."

Worthington, whose distinctive skills have been instantly appreciated by the Wearside public, has encouraged his relatively raw colleagues to push the pressures of their perilous position to one side.

Venison explains "Frank has stressed the importance of enjoying your performance, which is something younger players tend to find a little difficult."

It's hard to escape the feeling that you need to do something special to merit being in the team at such a young age, and you become afraid of making mistakes.

Now, though, I have steadied down. I'm not over ambitious, but I've got enough confidence in myself not to allow one slip to affect my game."

Venison, like the rest of the side,

is painfully aware that Sunderland have been overshadowed by Kevin Keegan's charismatic presence at Newcastle and Malcolm Allison's at Middlesbrough.

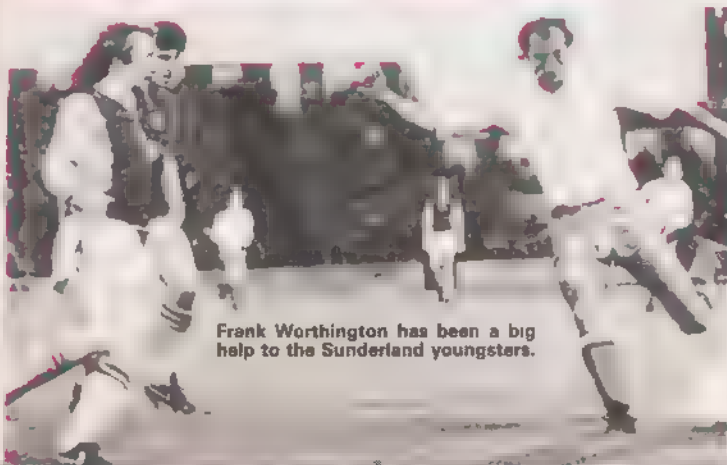
But he offers some hope, saying "We are not happy at being out of the limelight for so long. The supporters have been brilliant through it all, and deserve better."

'Tempted'

"I must admit that, if I was a fan, I would have been tempted to pop down to see Kevin Keegan. It is up to us to repay them, and I am sure we are capable of just that."

"As I mentioned, self-belief is a great thing, and the whole club is now buzzing with confidence. We have a good nucleus of young players like Nick Pickering, Ally McCoist and Gordon Chisholm, and some super seasoned pros."

"That is a good combination, which can only result in improvement. Our time will come, and I am sure that within two seasons we will give the fans something to celebrate."



Frank Worthington has been a big help to the Sunderland youngsters.

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Super focus

COLIN WALSH

Nottingham Forest

FULL NAME: Colin David Walsh
BIRTHDATE: Hamilton, Scotland
BIRTHDATE: July 22, 1962
HEIGHT: 5ft 10ins
WEIGHT: 11st 7lbs
MARRIED: No, engaged
CAR: Ford Capri
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE: TURNING PRO: straight from school
NICKNAME: 'Walshy'
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Star
FAVOURITE PLAYER: My Forest team-mate John Robertson
A PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: Steve Wigley (Forest)
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Hamilton Accies
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Jimmy Johnston
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Golf
OTHER SPORTS PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE: Jack Nicklaus
YOUR BEST EVER ALL TIME XI: Banks; Swain, Beckenbauer, Todd, McGrain; Giles, Hoddle, Morley; Cruyff, Pele, Best.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The 1986-87 Super Cup game v Valencia
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing the above game
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Everton
BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN: Burness Stadium
MADRID MISCELLANEOUS: LIKES... DISLIKES...
Winning and scoring...
... Travelling
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Bon Jovi, Duran Duran
FAVOURITE ACTOR & ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood and Susan George
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Cala Millor, Mallorca
BEST FILMS SEEN RECENTLY: 'Magnum Force' and 'Dirty Harry'
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Southsiders
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY OF THE DAY OFF: Playing golf and snooker
FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Italian food and lager
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father and the coaching staff at Forest
SUPERSTITIONS: None
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Scotland Schoolboy, Youth and Under-21 caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To play for Scotland as a full international
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Physical training instructor
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: Sports centre manager
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Bryan Ferry


SHOOT!



IPSWICH'S Scottish international star John Wark is chased by the industrious Watford midfielder man Les Taylor. Some would have you believe Watford's midfielder have precious little to do, but Taylor proves that not everything goes over his head.

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A DALY BOOST FOR CITY



GERRY Daly, after 12 months of continual injury problems, is enjoying football again.

The Republic of Ireland international joined Leicester City in March after spending a month on loan with them and is determined to help them nick a promotion place at the death.

"Gordon Milne, the Leicester City manager, gave me the chance to play again," says Daly. "I knew I wouldn't be back in the Coventry side again and I wanted first team football."

Coventry's manager, Dave Sexton, agreed to let Daly go on a month's loan to Second Division City. Even during that period, Daly was uncertain about his future. Eventually he decided to stay at Filbert Street.

"I felt it would have been wrong to go to another club," he says. "I suppose I could have gone to



Leicester boss Gordon Milne has thrown a life-line to Gerry Daly

Manchester City, but even when I was fit clubs weren't exactly knocking on my door."

And Daly is sure he has made the right decision by staying at Leicester.

"I'm enjoying it here. They're a good bunch of lads and I feel that I am playing better than I have done for a long time."

In the promotion race from Division Two, QPR and Wolves look almost certain bets to go up. Fulham are favourites for the other spot, but are being chased by a number of clubs, including City. Daly has not given up hope of First Division football at Filbert Street.

"I suppose the odds are slim, but while there are games left we've still got a chance. If we do go up I'll look forward to going back to Manchester United and Coventry. It's always a privilege to play at Old Trafford, and I'm still friendly with the lads at Highfield Road."

Nucleus

Whatever happens at the end of the season, Daly believes there is a nucleus of a good side at Leicester City, and points to players such as Bobby Smith, Gary Lineker, Kevin MacDonald and Larry May, who have helped the side achieve such good results as the 5-0 hammering of Wolves in February, when Daly got his first goal for them.

There seemed to be a set-back to Daly's international career when the Republic of Ireland squad was announced for their game against Malta in Valetta on March 30. Daly's name was missing from the original squad.

"I was obviously very disappointed. But then I got a call asking me to report to Dublin on the Sunday before the game. That lifted me tremendously."

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GOAL GAME

Beat the SHOOT Quiz expert . . . If you can! Award yourself a goal for each correct answer and one for SHOOT if you fail to get it right. Put the scores in the boxes at the end of the questions.

1. David Fairclough appeared as a second-half substitute for Liverpool in this season's League Milk Cup Final against Manchester United at Wembley . . . who did he replace?

2. Did Manchester United use a substitute during the game . . . if so, who was the number 12?

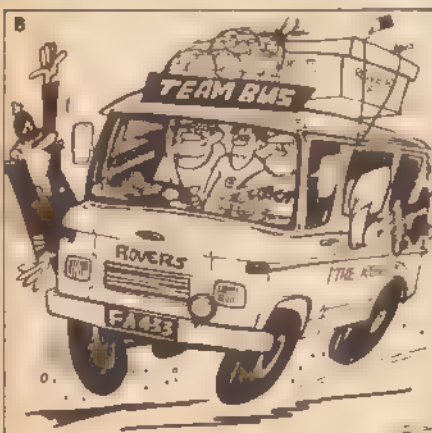
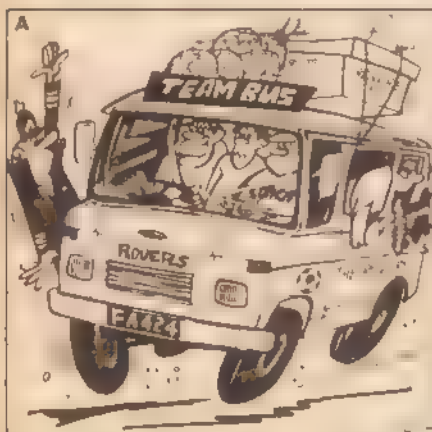
3. Nottingham Forest striker Ian Wallace (right) has played for two other clubs . . . can you name them? (clue: one is Scottish)

4. Did Portsmouth's Alan Knight of Oldham Athletic's Andy Gorm make his England Under-21 debut against Greece recently. England won 2-1.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the difference between these two cars?



COMPUTER PUZZLE

PAT JENNINGS

Programme this star player by plugging the gaps in his career

1. Pat began his Football League career with _____

2. After 48 games he was transferred to _____

3. In August, 1977 he was sold to Arsenal where he was signed by manager _____

4. Made his full international debut for Northern Ireland against _____ in April, 1964

5. Played his 1 000th competitive game in Arsenal's 0-0 draw with _____ in February

Computer performance rating: 5 Superb, 4 Excellent, 3 Good

5. Watford's Les Taylor (left) began his League career with Oxford United or Cambridge United?

6. Which Scottish clubs are known by the following nicknames — (a) The Spiders, (b) Loons, (c) The 'Gers and (d) The Terrors?

7. St. Mirren, who appear in this weekend's Scottish Cup Semi-Finals against Rangers, have never won the competition. True or false?

8. With which club was Manchester City's David Cross when he finished the 1980-81 season as the Second Division's top goalscorer with 22 League goals?

9. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of a top defender and his club . . . MOTcMAADM (IECCTL).

10. Scotland entertained Switzerland at Hampden Park in a European Championship game. The game finished 2-2 . . . who scored the goals for the Scots?

QUIZ RESULT

YOUR SCORE	SHOOT'S SCORE

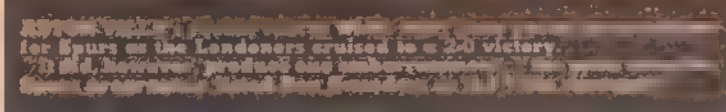
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ASKED which centre-forward he rates as the most dangerous in the First Division, Sunderland manager Alan Durban has come up with the somewhat surprising choice of Stoke's Brendan O'Callaghan (below, right)

Durban says of the burly Republic of Ireland striker. "I don't care what anybody else says, as far as I'm concerned Brendan week in and week out is the best

"He is tremendous in the air, superb at laying off crosses for team mates and also gets his fair share of goals."



FOREST manager Brian Clough has promised to send a team to play Gateshead on April 25 in a testimonial for defender Bob McLeod.

McLeod was Clough's first signing when he took over at Hartlepool to begin his long managerial career in 1965.

Langan's Lonely Battle..

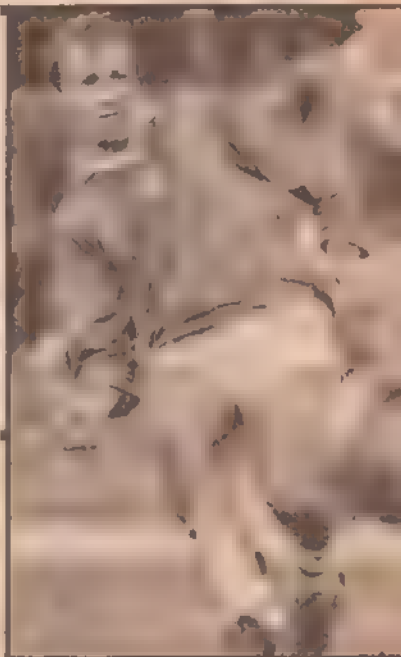
BIRMINGHAM's Eire international full-back David Langan (right) faces a long, hard summer following a cartilage operation

His disappointment upon hearing that he will be out of action for the rest of the season is matched only by his determination to get back

"I'll be working through the summer to ensure that I'm ready for pre-season training," said the Irish defender

THE testimonial fund set up for Ian Cashmore, the young Berwick Rangers player paralysed in a training accident, has raised £8,500 to date and, with several events, including a star-studded benefit match, due to take place before the end of the season, there has recently been a tremendous response to the appeal for the unfortunate player

A BLOW to Lincoln's rapidly diminishing Third Division promotion hopes comes with the news that full-back Phil Neale will put cricket before soccer by opting to miss the end of the season in order to appear for Worcestershire CCC



FORMER Aberdeen striker Walker McCall has joined Hong Kong Rangers, adding to the already sizeable Scottish contingent in the colony.

'LAY OFF LUTHER'

WATFORD boss Graham Taylor has come to the defence of his much-maligned striker Luther Blissett, recently relegated to substitute by England for the game against Greece

Says Taylor: "He scored 28 goals in his first 43 games this season, and that's an incredible record for anybody making their first appearance in the First Division

He played two full games for England and scored three goals and yet people still keep having a go.

"A couple of years ago he was offered the chance of guaranteed international football with Wales, but the lad was so keen to play for England that he decided to wait.

"He's a joy to work with. He's always got a big smile on his face and it's unusual if Luther isn't the first out on the training pitch."

CELTIC have declined an invitation to take part in Barcelona's prestigious Joan Gamper Tournament in August because it clashes with the start of the Scottish domestic season

Although some of the top clubs in the world will be praying, Celtic do not feel justified in asking the Scottish League to rearrange their opening fixtures to accommodate the trip to Spain.

OBESE BEES

BRENTFORD fan Richard Nash has come up with a novel way of raising cash for the club. Richard, a 22-year-old who weighs in at a massive 28 stone, has gone on a sponsored diet with the aim of putting pounds into the club's coffers — and taking pounds off himself. Businessman Richard hopes to lose at least three stone and wants other Brentford fans to sponsor his "diet of love" for The Bees, who were hit by a £150,000 blaze at their Griffin Park ground earlier this year.



GARRY THOMPSON'S move to WBA allowed the club to reward Ally Brown's loyalty with a free transfer to Crystal Palace — but the popular Scot won't be saying goodbye to his former teammates for some time yet

Brown will continue to live in the Midlands following an agreement between Albion manager Ron Wylie and Palace boss Alan Mullery for the 31 year-old striker to train at The Hawthorns on two days a week

SHEFFIELD UNITED fanatic Howard Wilkinson was not smiling when he won a special prize at the recent testimonial dinner for The Blades' former Ipswich full-back Les Tibbott. The reason? The prize was a season ticket for Sheffield Wednesday which Wilkinson had won by being forced to quit through injury will lead United against Ipswich at Bramall Lane on Monday (April 18)

Happy Birthday

April 17 — David Hunt (Notts County) 24
April 18 — Eamonn Bannon (Dundee Utd) 25; John Chiedozi (Notts County) 23; Kevin Wilson (Derby) 22.



April 19 — Trevor Francis (above, Sampdoria) 29; Stuart Gray (Nottm Forest) 23.

April 22 — Scott McGarvey (Man. Utd) 28.

Free gift...
Free gift...
Free gift...

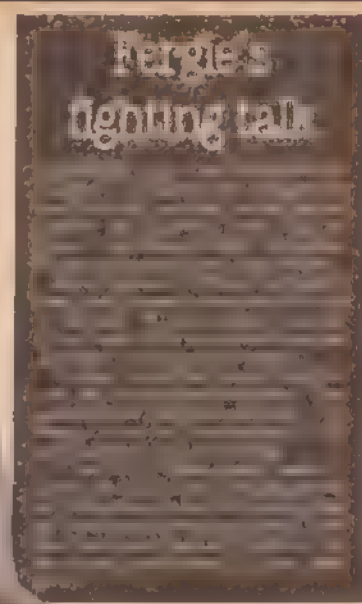
THOMAS LEADS COVENTRY EXODUS

ARSENAL, who were close to signing Coventry full-back Danny Thomas last summer, are ready to go back for the England Under-21 star when his contract expires at the end of the season.

And Thomas could be one of a number of Sky Blues players leaving Highfield Road if, as now seems likely, they fail to qualify for the UEFA Cup.

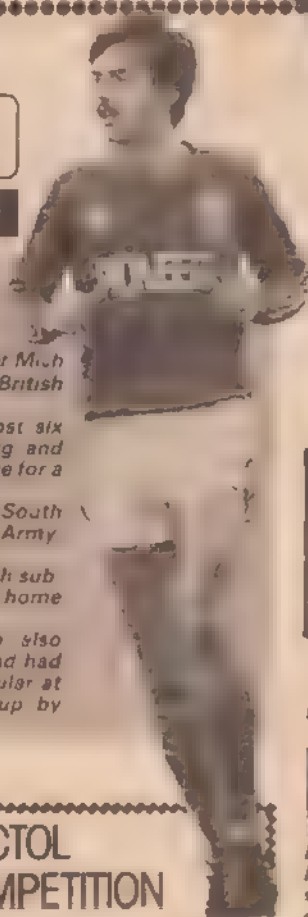
As well as Thomas, other key members of Dave Sexton's team who are at the end of their contracts are central defenders Paul Dyson and Garry Gillespie plus big striker Mark Hateley.

Coventry have already parted with Garry Thompson and midfield man Steve Hunt has clashed with Sexton and isn't too happy with the way things are going at the club.



A book had been published which re-creates the thrilling past-War F.A. Cup deeds of non-League clubs. The 'FA Cup Non-League Giant Killers' Annual recalls the stories of many famous games. The book is published by Goodall's at £2.95 and includes a foreword by Joe Mercer, Q.B.E.

Inside football with MARK IRWIN



D'AVRAY'S DELAY

IPSWICH TOWN'S South African born striker Mich D'Avray is still waiting to be granted British nationality.

Mich 21 arrived at Portman Road almost six years ago from his home in Johannesburg and hopes to be granted a British passport in time for a return trip in the summer.

He explains: "If I return home with my South African passport I could be called up for the Army. That's too much of a risk to take!"

Incidentally, once he does become a British subject Mich will be free to represent any of the home countries at international level.

His good friend Richard Gough, who also travelled all the way from Johannesburg and had trials with Ipswich, is now a first team regular at Dundee United and was recently called up by Scotland.

RANGERS manager John Greig, after spending £150,000 on West Ham striker Sandy Clark, isn't finished yet.

There is speculation that Rangers are setting up a big deal with Hearts that would take Ibrox stars Davie Cooper, the international winger, and Colin McAdam, bought three seasons ago from Partick Thistle for £170,000, plus a substantial sum of cash to Tynecastle with the Edinburgh side's 18-year-old midfielder Davie Bowman going in the opposite direction.

BIACTOL COMPETITION

IN our Biactol Competition, readers were invited to select the five qualities, of a given ten, that are most important for a top manager. Having considered all entries the judges chose the following selection as being best received: Eye for talent, Motivator, Ambition, Ability to relate to players, Sense of humour.

All entries listing this selection were then judged on their written tie-breaker. The prizewinner was judged to be Dean Vokes of Clacton-on-Sea, who won a trip to Craven Cottage to meet Malcolm Macdonald and helped Fulham prepare for their local derby match against Charlton.

Did you know?

Bradford City's F.A. Cup winning team of 1911 included eight Scots—the most in any winning team. West Bromwich's winning side in the 1888 First was made up of eleven Englishmen.

Joker Paisley

BOB PAISLEY brought joy to the recent PFA Awards dinner when he questioned some of the terms employed by today's coaches.

The Liverpool boss offered his own meanings for the following hackneyed phrases:

'Getting round the back' — "Trying to let the burglars in."

'Denying space' — "You should have been with me in the Western Desert. There was enough space there."

'Negative and positive tactics' — "Send for an electrician."

'Close the game down' — "We're certainly going the right way about achieving that with all the current problems."

Our players have grown up overnight? — "What have you to say to that Sammy (Lee)?"

and Rhian speak Welsh, and it is in fact the first time the Welsh Language Society in Liverpool.



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EXCLUSIVE interviews with KEVIN MORAN and wing wizards PETER BARNES and LAURIE CUNNINGHAM.

Sandy Clark — The truth about his shock transfer from West Ham to Rangers.

Revealed! Alan Ball's secrets.

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Brazil v Ipswich

Alan Ball's of goals against Ipswich Town.

The Glasgow born Scottish international would have foreseen half a week's wages not to have had to confront the club who recently sold him in a £450,000 transfer deal.

But he has no intention of ducking the challenge posed by his imminent confrontation with former team-mates Terry Butcher and Russell Osman.

Saturday's exciting challenge is one of many Alan has faced in his early weeks at Spurs, one of the happiest periods of his career after a nightmare season at Ipswich.

Alan, loathing the glare of publicity that has haunted him for most of the season, says quietly: "I lost a bit of confidence at Ipswich with all the uncertainty over my future. I'm pleased it's all over."

The 23-year-old former Portman Road idol, who is fighting to fully establish himself in the Scotland team, remains slightly unsettled through no fault of his own or that of Spurs.

He is becoming disenchanted with the long drive to Spurs training ground at Cheshunt every day, starting at 8.45 am, and ending when his saloon sweeps through the gates at home in mid-afternoon.

"I'm not complaining," says

Alan. "I'm just saying that the sooner we move nearer to London the better."

Alan, and his wife of a year-and-a-half, Jill, are already combing the more exclusive residential areas of North London staggered by the prices of houses in comparison to those in East Angles, but realistic enough to know that whatever he spends he will get in return if he sells.

Dipped

Alan's arrival at White Hart Lane after six years at Ipswich is said to have lit the fuse for Mark Falco's return to goalscoring form. The young Spurs striker, whose career dipped to an all-time low when he went on loan to Chelsea for a few weeks this season, scored the winner against Watford on Brazil's debut and two more goals that sank Aston Villa a few days later.

Brazil will take none of the credit for that resurgence in Falco's form. "It's nothing to do with me joining Spurs," he says modestly. "Mark is taking his chances thanks to his own fine form."

And the newly-forged strike combination was at its best during Spurs' recent 6-0 hammering of Arsenal at White Hart Lane, when

Falco netted another two and Brazil scored his first for the club. Brazil's diplomacy as the "new boy" dissuades him from making any observations about his choice of co-striker in Spurs' attack.

"I like the ball played to my feet, not in the air," he says. "Who plays with me is up to the manager."

His relationship with Spurs boss Keith Burkinshaw is blossoming handsomely, based on a mutual respect.

"He has helped me in every way he can," says Brazil. "He hasn't said 'get me 20 goals, or 10 goals'. He is confident enough to say 'nothing and let me get on with the job'."

The Heline Spire threw Brazil has lifted spirits that were noticeably sagging.

He has recently been axed by Scotland amidst mounting criticism of his shortage of goals in the navy blue shirt of his homeland.

Eleven caps and no goals was nothing to be proud of, and Jock Stein dropped him.

But a measure of Brazil's refusal to bow to mounting criticism of his performances for Scotland was his courage in keeping faith in his goalscoring talents at Ipswich that persuaded Stein to pick him for Scotland's squad against Switzerland last month.



Brazil's goal-bound header caused confusion in Watford's defence on his Spurs debut and enabled Mark Falco to ram home the winner.

UNITED we stand... challenging for European glory and for the Scottish League Championship. But not so long ago life at Tannadice was vastly different.

That thought came to mind as I was looking back over my nine years with Dundee United which have seen Jim McLean take the club to the top with a boast which is the envy of just about every other team in the land... swelling attendances.

No one would ever dream of using the phrase "relegation battle" on our part of Tayside now, but I recall that in my first season as a United first team regular I was dropped after a run of 20 games to make way for the more experienced men who were better equipped in dealing with that kind of match.

My team-mates in those days were Jackie Copland, now about to receive his testimonial match from St Mirren, Alex Rennie, now manager of promotion favourites St Johnstone, Walter Smith, presently coach of Dundee United, and one Andy Gray who I believe has gone on to rate a mention or two South of the border!

Disappointing

I played my debut first team game as substitute in a UEFA Cup-tie against Real Petrosani when I was 17 — but little did I realise that I was to have my most disappointing 90 minutes in the same tournament years later.

I'm talking about this season's Quarter-Final second-leg against Bohemians of Prague when, after losing 1-0 in Czechoslovakia, we could only draw 0-0 in Dundee.

I have played around 300 first team games for United but I don't remember anything as disappointing as that for, just like last season when we lost to Radnicki Nis, Bohemians were in my opinion the worst team we had played in the competition.

We played sides like Werder Bremen and PSV Eindhoven and gave them a whipping and I was desperate to do well because I had

already missed 12 matches this season through injury... and that is about one fifth of the term.

It was injury again which kept me out of Scotland's squad for the European Championship match against Switzerland at Hampden, but at least I made the World Cup squad.

That is something I could never have dreamt of when I was playing

in the Perthshire Amateur League or for Bankfoot Juniors and I don't suppose Jim McLean would figure it could happen when he signed me as an amateur after coming to our match to watch another player.

But the World Cup — although I didn't actually kick a ball in earnest in Spain — turned out to be the most amazing experience of my career so far.

I learned a lot... both about myself and my team-mates. For example, it confirmed for me that Davie Narey is the best player ever to come out of Tannadice — and I include Andy Gray in that — and the most under-rated player in Britain.

He really is a brilliant all-rounder although he is a very quiet guy.

But the best in a Scotland jersey? No danger, Kenny Dalglish is the type of striker everyone dreams about. And that brings me nicely to something interesting about post World Cup blues... or lack of them in Dalglish's case.

Exception

He was written off after — by his standards — a poor World Cup, but came back to be Player of the Year. But for me his case is the exception which proves the rule.

People like Alan Brazil, Stevie Archibald and myself have faded after the World Cup and I put it down to the pressure that is on when you play in the world's premier sporting event.

In fanatical Scotland the eyes of the nation are on you, positively willing you to succeed and you know that you have to do the business.

But then I didn't get a real holiday and came back to a coaching course at Largs before going on a tour to Denmark with the club and right into the early rounds of the League Cup.

My appetite for the game was under pressure and I didn't really do any pre-season training.

Personally, I feel I have enough left to wind myself up for the run-up to the Championship where triumph would more than make up for the night when the Czechs bounced us out of the UEFA Cup.

We have something to prove at the club... that we are as good as other people believe we are. Everyone agrees that United can play, but, they ask, have we the bottle to succeed?

I think so... and I aim to prove just how far we have come in these nine years.

'MY RELEGATION SHOCK'

SAYS PAUL STURROCK

NOBBY

I'M OUR LEADING GOAL-SCORER THIS SEASON



REALLY— HOW MANY HAVE YOU SCORED?



THREE, INCLUDING TWO PENALTIES



I WONDERED HOW THEY MANAGED TO GROW LETTUCE BACK THERE!



If there is one player in the Scottish Cup Semi-Finals on Saturday who knows all about the agony and the ecstasy of the tournament it is surely Aberdeen's Peter Weir.

Last season the wily left-winger shot The Dons through to the Cup Final showdown with Rangers when he scored the winning goal against his old club St. Mirren in the Semi-Final replay.

"But there was no place for me in our line-up when we reached Hampden," laments Weir. "I was injured between the two games and Alex Ferguson just couldn't take a chance on me.

"Instead he brought in John McMaster and, as the history books show, Aberdeen won the trophy 4-1 in extra-time.

SWASH- BUCKLING DONS

"Obviously I would have loved to have been out there in the thick of the action against Rangers, but it wasn't to be and I can only hope my luck changes this time out."

Celtic are the formidable barrier between Weir and his Pittodrie colleagues reaching their second successive Scottish Cup Final.



Scottish Cup Semi-Final

Hampden Park, Saturday April 16th

CELTIC v. ABERDEEN



Celtic's Frank McGarvey and Roy Aitken combine to halt Aberdeen winger Peter Weir.

"We all respect Celtic, but we aren't afraid of them," says Weir, back in the international limelight after a two-year break.

"Just look at our record against them in Glasgow. We've already beaten them 3-1 twice at Parkhead in the Premier Division this season although I accept those games will

have no bearing whatsoever on this encounter."

Those long legs and that breathtaking acceleration of Weir have caused Celtic problems in the past. He is the sort of player, endowed with lavish skills, who can win games all on his own.

Danny McGrain was even

sent-off earlier in the season after a frustrating afternoon against Weir.

McGrain will be missing at Hampden on Saturday through suspension, but it's not even certain that Weir will occupy a left-wing berth.

Shrewd manager Alex Ferguson foxed Celtic in the second League game at Parkhead this season when he moved the wandering star to the right and Weir adds: "It paid off, because I was left free just before the interval to send over a cross from the right which Eric Black knocked past Pat Bonner from close range to put us 2-1 ahead."

Inevitable

Celtic, after leading 1-0 with an inevitable goal from Charlie Nicholas, eventually surrendered 3-1 on that bleak afternoon for the Parkhead faithful, with teenager Black completing a rousing hat-trick.

Most onlookers tend to think of the Celtic v. Aberdeen clash as 'the Final before the Final', but Weir points out: "We won't get any medals if we beat Celtic. That's only part of the job. There's no point in starting something that cannot be finished."

Peter Weir was so unlucky last season. Will the gods of fortune smile on him this time around?

"Aberdeen make their own luck," says no-nonsense Ferguson. "We know exactly what we must do in this game."

"We've beaten them in the League, now we must beat them in the Cup."

When the swashbuckling Pittodrie cavaliers are in this mood, it's difficult to argue with them!



Aiming for a Cup double

HAVING already blasted the Scottish League Cup Final winner against Rangers, Celtic's Murdo MacLeod is looking for a Cup double this season.

MacLeod and Celtic are only 90 minutes away from another Cup Final, and he says: "It'll be tough knocking out Aberdeen, but we can do it.

"They can point to a good record against us at Parkhead, but they shouldn't forget we also beat them earlier in the season at Pittodrie.

"Strangely, they seem to do well in Glasgow while we do well up there. But this is a different ball game.

"It's a one-off situation and I'm taking Celtic to settle this tie. Lifting the League Cup was marvellous... I want to get my hands on some more silverware as soon as possible."

A firm fan of MacLeod's aggressive midfield play is none other than his manager Billy McNeill. Most of the headlines may come the way of Charlie Nicholas, Davie Provan, Frank McGarvey, Paul McStay and Danny McGrain, but MacLeod's name is

one of the first McNeill pencils in when he sits down to select his line up.

"He is absolutely vital to our playing pattern," says McNeill. "You can't do much unless you have the ball and Murdo is one of those players who goes and looks for the action.

"And what about his shooting power? That's a bonus. He does so much hard work yet he still has time to score memorable goals and he is one of our top marksmen."

MacLeod was McNeill's second signing when he became manager of Celtic in 1978.

"I got him for £100,000 from Dumbarton," says McNeill. "Now that's what I call money well spent. He's never let the team down."

MacLeod's trophy cabinet is beginning to bulge already although he has only been at Parkhead those five years. He has picked up three Premier Division medals and is looking for a fourth at the end of this season, and has sampled the glory of a Scottish Cup Final victory as well as a League Cup triumph over Rangers at Hampden.

"I won't be thinking of Cup Finals on Saturday. If I'm playing, my mind will be totally on the game at hand. It's bound to be a smashing tie with a lot of atmosphere and it would be a great feeling to get the winning goal again, as I did on my last game at Hampden against Rangers."

Jim Leighton, you have been warned!

CUP PROGRESS

CELTIC

Third Round
Fourth Round
Fifth Round

Clydebank
Dunfermline
Hearts

(a) 3-0
(h) 3-0
(b) 4-1

ABERDEEN

Third Round
Fourth Round
Fifth Round

Hibs
Dundee
Partick

(a) 4-1
(h) 1-0
(a) 2-1



Scottish Cup Semi-Final

Parkhead, Saturday April 16th

RANGERS v. ST. MIRREN

'MEMORIES ARE MADE OF VICTORY' says Ally Dawson

THE memory of two wretched Cup Finals and a disastrous League season will spur Rangers on to a Semi-Final victory over St. Mirren.

That's the firm view of former captain Ally Dawson, whose form has varied from the mediocre to the excellent in the space of a few months after his move from left-back to right-back.

"We lost our last two Cup Finals at Hampden," says Dawson. "Last season Aberdeen beat us in

extra-time in the Scottish Cup and then Celtic took the League Cup from us this season. So I reckon those memories are made of victory!

"Those are two very painful memories, believe me. They must be wiped out and I'm sure it would help put a smile on the faces of our supporters if we landed the Scottish Cup at the end of the season.

"This really has been a trying time for everyone connected with the Ibrox club. Things started so well, but then we slumped and it

was difficult to come out of it.

"I don't believe in hiding behind excuses, but look at our injury list this season. Big Craig Paterson — signed from Hibs in the close season — was just settling in at central defence when he was injured and was out for a lengthy spell.

"In fact, he only managed to return for our Cup Quarter-Final victory over Queen's Park after being out since January 3.

"There were injuries everywhere. The treatment room at Ibrox resembled a battleground

hospital at times with the amount of players waiting to be treated.

"And there was a loss of form throughout the team, myself included. And that affected the confidence.

"But we have stuck with it and now we are only 90 minutes away from playing in our eighth successive Scottish Cup Final. To reach that stage we will have to play at our very best against St. Mirren.

"They are playing exceptionally well at the moment. Like us, they went through a sticky patch earlier in the season, but they seem to have their act together now.

"If we play as we can, then I think we can win," says Dawson. "But we must put things together right away. We won't get any second chances at this stage in the tournament. One mistake could prove so costly to either team.

"But we have the destiny of the tie in our own hands. This is a make-or-break game for us. The League was lost a long time ago, so the Cup will at least atone for that failure. We can't slip now."

Rangers' particular jigsaw puzzle is coming together with Sandy Clark and John MacDonald forming the spearhead, Craig Paterson back in the centre of the rearguard with the leggy Davie McPherson alongside him and skipper John McClelland at left-back.

Ally Dawson is the man in possession of the No. 2 shirt and he's hoping a change of jersey may also bring about the change of an outcome at Hampden.

Beware 'the nearly men' of St. Mirren

BILLY Stark knows only too well why St. Mirren are called the 'Nearly Men' of Cup competitions.

"Last season we were within minutes of reaching both the Finals in the Scottish Cup and the League Cup," he points out. "But, when the dust settled, we were left looking on and our Semi-Final conquerors went into the Hampden Finals and won the trophies.

"In the League Cup we faced Rangers, and were leading 2-1 in the second-leg of the tie at Ibrox in the second-half. We were that close to Hampden we could almost taste it.

"Then Rangers equalised, and with only a minute or so to go John MacDonald got the winner. And the Ibrox men went on, of course, to beat Dundee United in the Final.

"I remember watching that game and thinking how easily it could have been St. Mirren and not

Rangers who were at Hampden that afternoon. We'll want revenge for that League Cup defeat.

Stark's form in recent weeks has been a revelation and he says: "I'm thinking more positively now and things are clicking.

"I hope that continues at Parkhead on Saturday. We can go there with a lot of confidence. We played Celtic there in the League last month and were only minutes away from a 1-0 victory when Davis Provan equalised. The game ended 1-1, but we will be in no mood to let the other half of the Old Firm off the hook on this occasion.

"There's a lot of pressure on Rangers in this Cup-tie. I would say more on them than on us.

"We are going into the game with confidence. The team has picked itself up again, there's a buzz in the air and, surely, this time things will turn out right."

He won't fail for the lack of trying. And that goes for the rest of his team-mates, too.



St. Mirren's Billy Abercrombie (stripes) clashes with Neale Cooper of Aberdeen in last season's Scottish Cup Semi-Final.

CUP PROGRESS

RANGERS

Third Round
Fourth Round
Fifth Round

Falkirk
Forfar
Queen's Park

(a) 2-0
(h) 2-1
(a) 2-1

ST. MIRREN

Third Round
Fourth Round
Fifth Round

Dundee Utd
Morton
Airdrie

(h) 1-0
(a) 2-0
(a) 5-0

**CUP DAY
MAGIC**

Peter
Weir
(Aberdeen)

ROARING



TO

HAMPDEN

Murdo
MacLeod
(Aberdeen)

Frank
McAvennie
(St. Mirren)

AS the Scottish Cup enters its final stages, the prospect of another Old Firm showdown at Hampden has been enhanced by a draw which once again keeps the Glasgow giants apart. But standing in their paths to the Final are Aberdeen and St. Mirren, who have gradually eroded the stranglehold which Celtic and Rangers once enjoyed in Scotland. Aberdeen are now right on the heels of Celtic, and if winger Peter Weir can find his best form in their Semi-Final meeting at Hampden, Celtic could be in trouble. However, Billy McNeill's team are confident they can win the day, and

with Charlie Nicholas it's not hard to understand their optimism.

But if Aberdeen can shackle the midfield supply from Murdo MacLeod it will be a close-run thing.

At Parkhead, meanwhile, Rangers will aim to shake off their disappointing season with a Semi-Final victory over St. Mirren.

The key confrontation here could well be the one between Rangers skipper John McClelland and Saints' striker Frank McAvennie.

John McClelland
(Rangers)